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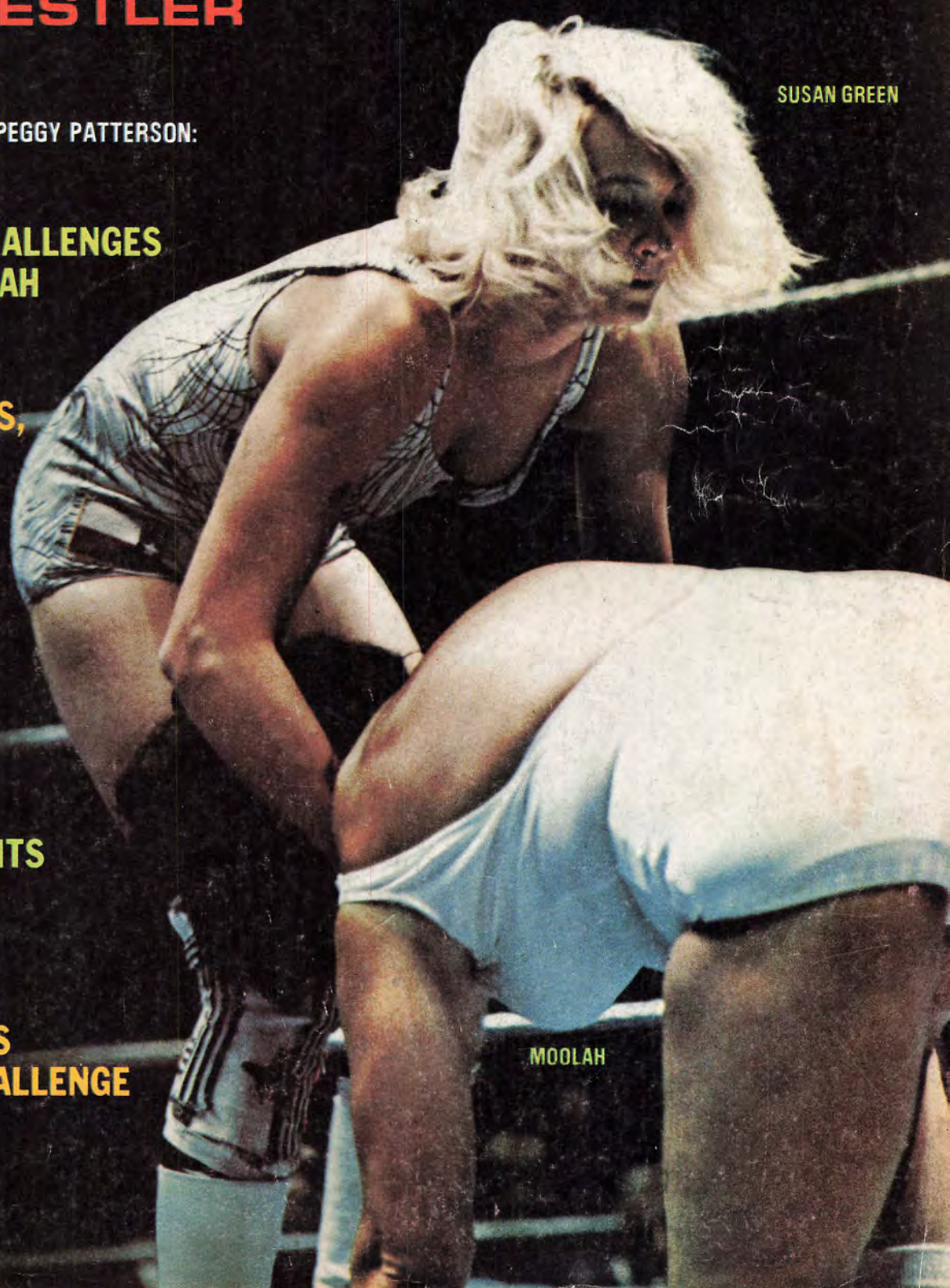

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WRESTLING

SPORTS STARS GIRL-WRESTLER SPECIAL

1976 VOL. 9, NO. 1

articles

6 **The Lonely Life Of A Girl Wrestler** ..... **John David**

12 **Toni Rose: Greatest Of Them All?** ..... **Phil Miller**

18 **Blondes Have More Fun!** ..... **Matt Ritter**

22 **Ann Casey Faces Her Biggest Challenge** ..... **George Napolitano**

28 **Apartment House Wrestling Is Getting Bigger And Sexier** ..... **Joseph Pollard**

34 **Tag Team Beauties Revolt: "Male Wrestlers, Male Fans—They Won't Leave Us Alone!"** . **Larry Bender**

40 **"Big Cities Scare Me!" Admits Countrygirl Joyce Grable** ..... **Lou Sahadi**

46 **Will Moolah Ever Lose Her Title?** ..... **Lou Sahadi**

52 **Darling Dagmar: A Little Bit Of The South** ..... **Frank Amato**

56 **Maria DeLeon Warns: "I'm Back To Teach Moolah A Lesson!"** ..... **George Napolitano**

60 **"Loneliness Is My Toughest Enemy!" Admits Peggy Patterson** ..... **Lou Sahadi**

Editorial Director Phil Hirsch
Editor Lou Sahadi
Managing Editor John David
Contributing Editors Hal Bock/Ben Olan
Executive Art Director Stan Friedman
Production Mary Traina
Promotion Priscilla Russo
Circulation Director Ronald Adelson

Cover Photo by Mickey Palmer

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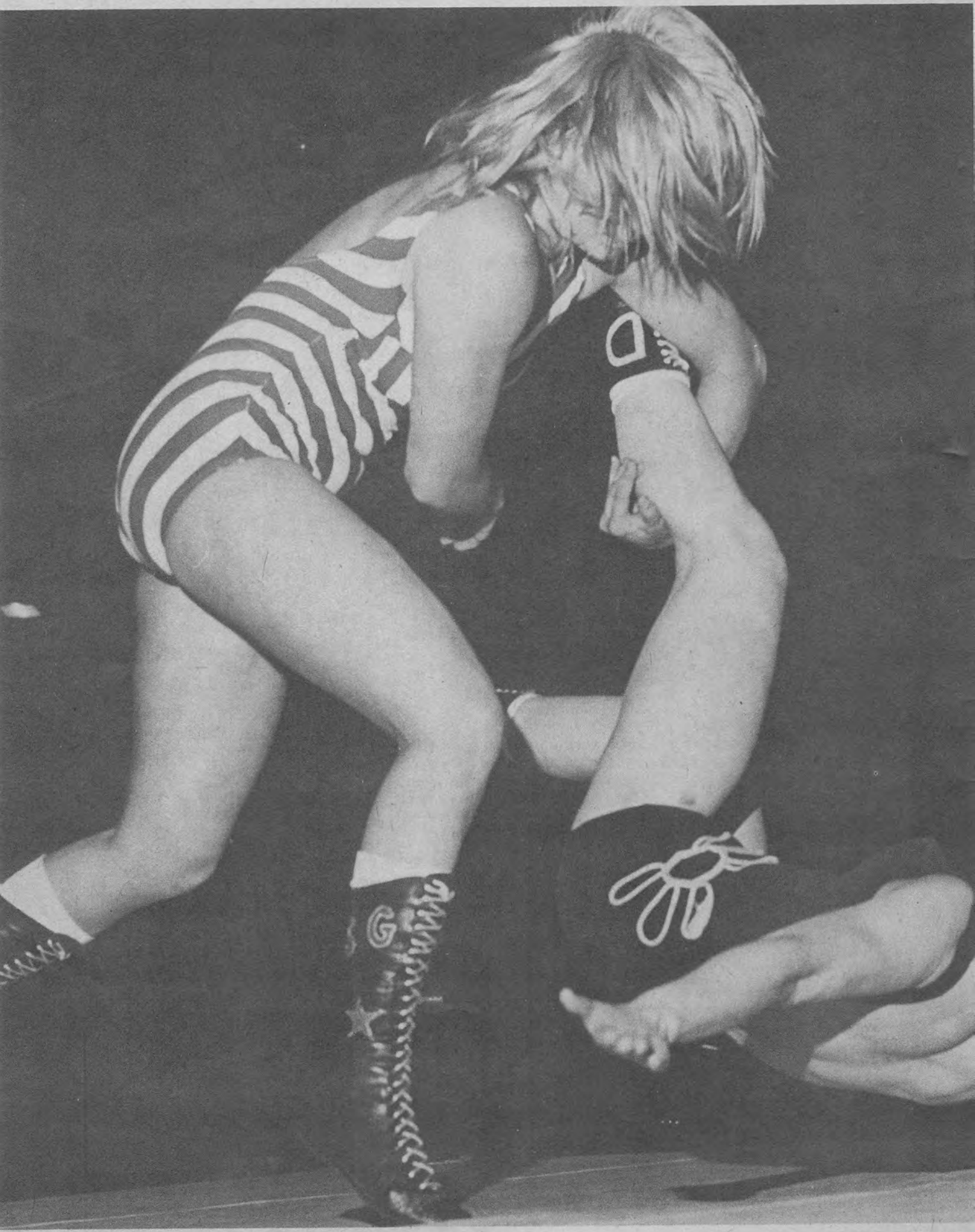
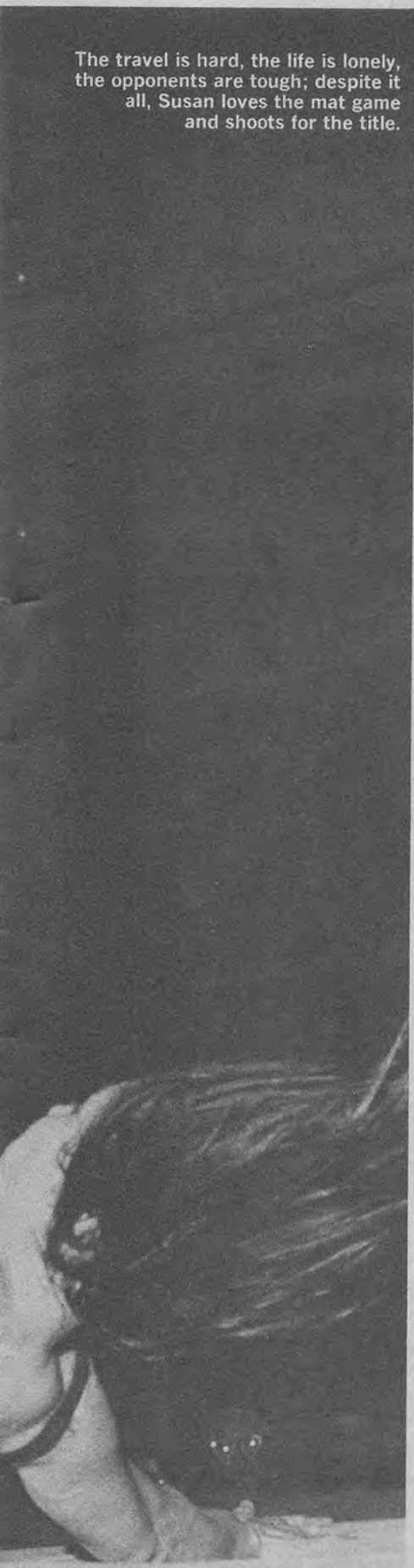


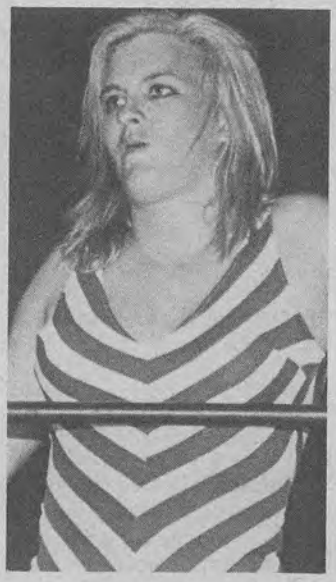


The travel is hard, the life is lonely, the opponents are tough; despite it all, Susan loves the mat game and shoots for the title.

SUSAN GREEN'S OWN STORY:

THE LONELY LIFE OF A GIRL GRAPPLER

By John David



Susan Green is a new breed of woman wrestler. She is a statuesque, six-foot, 170-pound blond with big green eyes. She's 19 years old and would lift many an eyebrow if she were to enter a beauty contest. Now on the circuit for two years, Susan has a most promising career ahead of her if she can overcome the loneliness of her profession.

SHE WAS SOMETHING ELSE. She looked so patriotic that she would be a perfect complement to the World War II inspired Uncle Sam posters. There has never been another like her. She wore blue knit tights with red and white piping. Her boots were blue, with neatly placed red and white stars. To complete her ensemble, she wore a white headband with red stars and the word "Tex" in bright red color across the front. Betsy Ross couldn't have been more patriotic.

Susan Green is a new breed of woman wrestler. She is a statuesque blond with big green eyes. At six feet, 170 pounds, she is well built to say the least. Her vital statistics are 36-31-35, and how many 19-year-olds are there around in sports with those credentials? If she entered a beauty contest, and she very well could, Susan Green would lift a few eyebrows.

But, the willowy beauty is a wrestler, simply because she wants to be one. She's been on the circuit two years now with a promising career well ahead of her. As one admirer blurted out when she made her appearance in the arena, "she doesn't have to wrestle, she is pretty enough." The remark almost made her blush.

In the whirl and excitement of professional wrestling, with its prepon-

Susan says that one day she'll topple Moolah from her throne, but is still learning the ropes now.

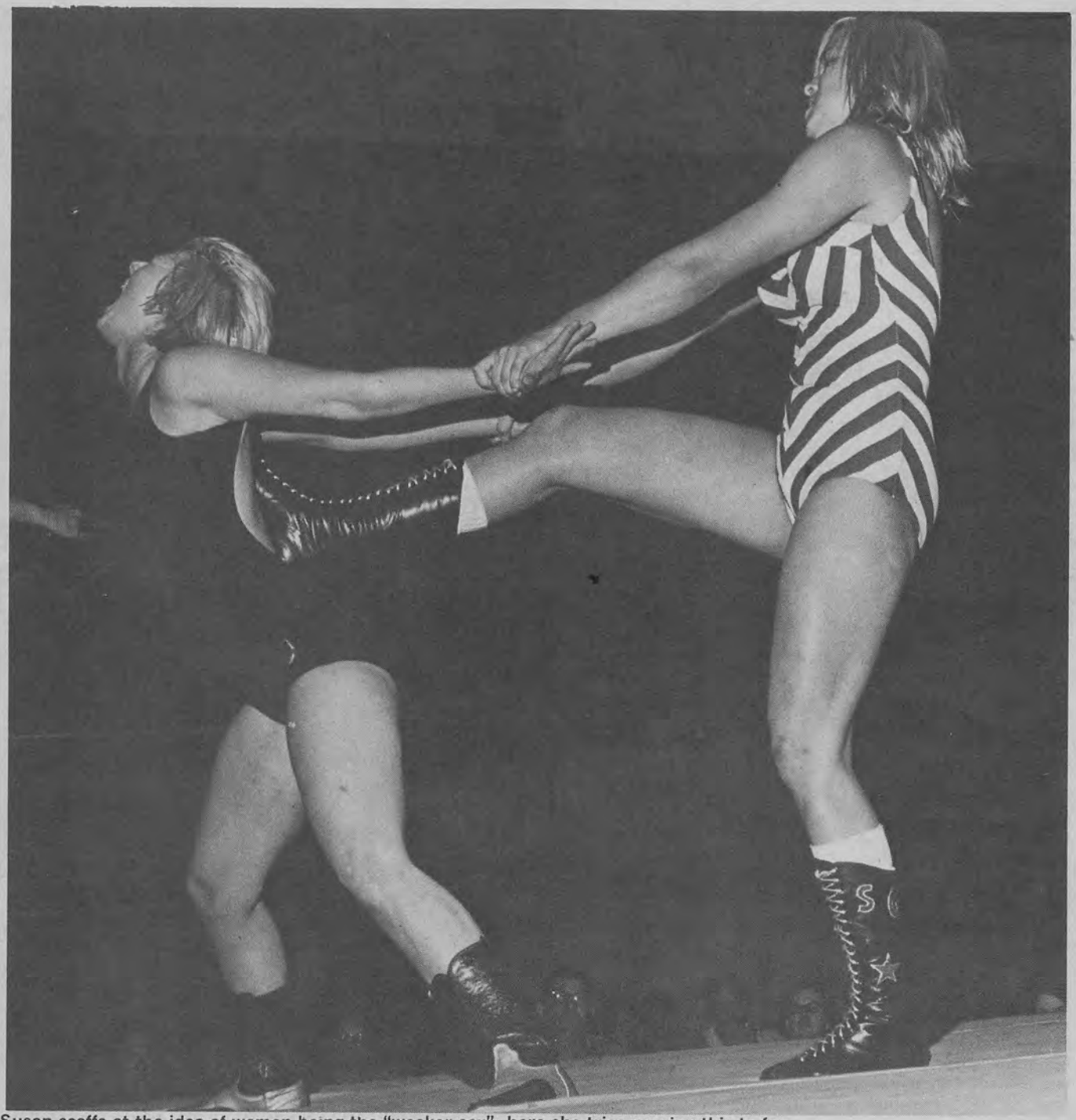
derance of noise and bellicose atmosphere, Susan Green is restive, comfortable in the solitude, in this case a private dressing room in New York's Madison Square Garden. It was her first appearance in the storied mecca of arenas shortly after the New York State Athletic Commission permitted females to engage in wrestling for the first time in the history of the sport.

"I'm not scared, but just a bit nervous," confessed Susan. "I've been wrestling for two years now, in various sections of the country, but I guess New York is special. I can feel the magnitude of the place, the large crowd outside. It's the biggest audience that I have ever wrestled before. It's the anticipation more than anything else that makes me nervous. Female wrestling isn't exactly a household word in New York. However, once I climb into the ring and the action begins, I'll be all right. I've been through it before."

The very first time was two years ago in a small Texas town named Victoria when Susan made her professional debut. There were only 2,000 people in the arena, but to Susan that was a lot of people. She was only 19 at the time and wrestling before that many people can be quite frightening to someone so young and attractive. Susan looks back at the time and chuckles about it now.

"I was so scared I didn't want to take off my jacket when I got into the ring," she disclosed. "I was scared in front of all those people. I couldn't shake the feeling. I wasn't myself in the ring. I missed a drop kick and then my opponent, Maria DeLeon, who is a fiery Mexican, quickly capitalized on the opportunity and pinned me. I was disappointed of course, but not discouraged. Being young helped in this instance. I was able to overcome my embarrassment that much quicker."

Actually, Susan was exposed to athletics all during her childhood in little Alice, Texas. The only girl in a family that included two older brothers, Susan



Susan scoffs at the idea of women being the "weaker sex"; here she tries proving this to foe.

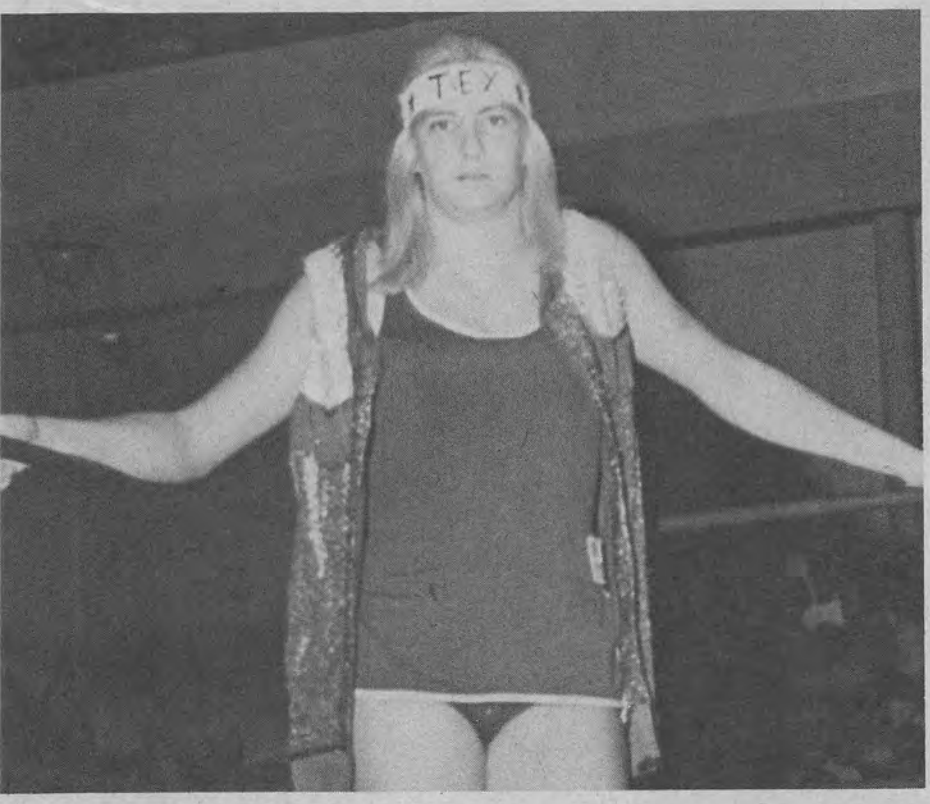
was surprisingly the best athlete. She participated in swimming, baseball, basketball, track and tennis. It left her mother with her head shaking but her father bursting with pride. He was sports-minded and, if the athlete in the family turned out to be a daughter, then it was all right by him.

"My mother finally got used to the idea of her daughter being a tomboy," remarked Susan. "She didn't object as long as I kept my room clean. I didn't turn my back on my other duties. Whenever I wasn't participating in sports, I would help my mother around the house with the chores. With it all, I still had a good relationship with my brothers. We're a close-knit family."

Susan was quite proficient in swimming. She excelled in the 50-yard free style, the 100-yard free style and the 100-yard butterfly. Susan participated in the junior olympics while still in high school and won a medal in each event. Still, despite her obvious swimming talents, Susan decided on becoming a wrestler when she finished high school. She was bitten by the bug early.

"My father used to take me with him to the wrestling matches when I was still quite young," she revealed. "I liked the action. It was quite challenging and stimulating. I told my father one night as we were driving home after the matches that I wanted to become a wrestler when I grew up. He smiled and said that I would have to grow up big, strong and be in top condition."

Her athletic endeavors gave her the background. Her subsequent prowess in the junior olympics earned her a reputation, at least in the southern part of Texas. Floyd Emerson, a wrestling promoter in Corpus Christi, knew of Susan's fame when she, accompanied by her father, visited him one day in the hopes of becoming a wrestler. Emerson was delighted at the prospect of such a talented youngster becoming a wrestler. Her father agreed and there wasn't any objection from Susan's mother be-



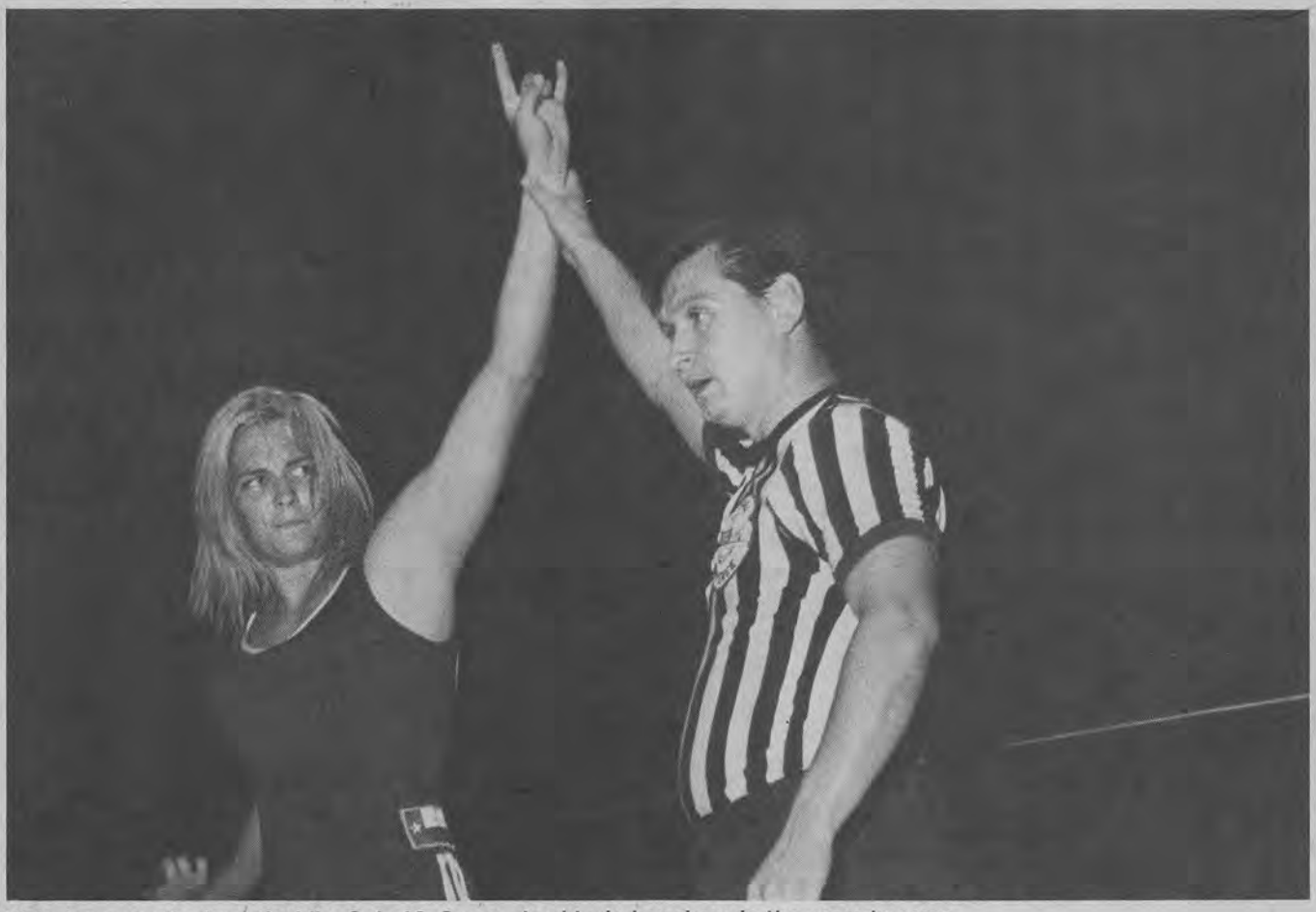
Calm before the match, Susan unleashes an attack once the bell rings.

cause she realized her daughter would be happy doing what she wanted. After a four-month training period under Emerson's close eye, Susan made her debut one night in Victoria. Although unsuccessful then, she has won more then her share of bouts.

"My first idols were Jessica Rogers and Sherri Lee," recalled Susan. "After watching them perform, I was convinced that I would become a wrestler. My father always understood this feeling. We are very close, and still are for that matter, even though I am traveling around the country. I manage to keep in contact with my family, making it a point to telephone them once a week no matter where I am."

The load is a lonely one for Susan. She doesn't have time for dates like most normal girls her age. Often the nights after a match are spent traveling to the next town. She virtually lives out of a suitcase, going from hotel to hotel in one town to the next. The early morning hours through the early afternoon hours are spent sleeping.

Still, Susan has made the most of it. The relatively few hours she has before a match are well spent. She often writes poetry or draws. She likes to sketch scenes of photographs that she has taken along the way. Her poetry is



Victories make it all worthwhile. Only 19, Susan should win her share in the years to come.

usually written about her family, which is evidence of her close family ties. Then, too, she also writes about her travels, often making reference to her home in Alice, Texas.

Other times Susan relaxes by playing the guitar. She has a great deal of feeling for country and western music. Her favorite artists are Jonny James, Charlie Pride and Lynn Anderson. The music helps ease the pain of being lonely. Another is by going shopping whenever she has a little extra time to do so. Mostly, she's content with her poetry and her guitar.

"Most people don't realize just how lonely a life a female wrestler leads," exclaimed Susan. "We're not man-crazy like a lot of people think. I don't drink or smoke, so I don't really care that much about going out. My biggest night out, when I occasionally get one, is to go to the movies. I like seeing movies about wild life. I'm a conservationist and I don't like to see the environment destroyed.

"I prefer the outdoors and I guess you might consider me the outdoor type. I'd just as soon ride a horse or go hiking. I also like to collect arrowheads, I have about 60 of them in my collection; I found most of them in Texas and New Mexico. Who knows, I may go back to college one day and study archeology. I'd love to go on one of those archeological expeditions. That would be fascinating.

"However, I am happy with what I am doing. I am earning a good dollar, $20,000 a year. If I was the champion, I could probably double or triple that. Despite the long and weary hours, I enjoy traveling. I am seeing places that I only read about. Yet, basically, I am still a home girl. I hope to marry in 10 years but I want to get all the traveling out of my system first. And, you can't travel all that much if you are married. Right now, I don't have any time for romance and won't be susceptible to any courtships."

Vanity is often the badge of a lady wrestler's courage. Susan displayed it one night about a year ago in Laredo, Texas. She was rammed head first into a table and suffered a gash on her forehead. She disdained the use of stitches for butterfly clamps for fear of being left with a scar. She endured the pain and fortunately was left without a scar. Yet, she has suffered her share of bumps and bruises.

Susan is quite an exciting performer in the ring. Because of her size and strength, she is proficient at executing a Back Breaker. She body slams her opponent a couple of times first to weaken her. Then she picks up her dazed foe and places her arms across her shoulder, exerts pressure downward and bounces her up and down. It's a submission hold that results in a victory once she applies it.

Another maneuver Susan executes is the Airplane Spin. She tosses her opponent into the ropes and catches her as she bounces off. She locks her powerful arms across her opponent's shoulders and spins her around incessantly. So much so, that when she releases her grip, her hapless adversary is practically out on her feet and harmlessly falls to the canvas and prone to a pin.

Still another of Susan's trademarks is the Bulldog. She develops it by catching her opponent coming off the ropes with a headlock. She then runs her opponent across the ring and drives her to the mat with a great amount of force. Since her opponent offers no resistance, Susan merely turns her over for an easy pin.

"I'd like to be the champion one day, but that Moolah is tough to beat," exclaimed Susan. "She's vicious, which is the making of a champion. If I was the champion, I guess I'd be the same way. I wouldn't want anyone to take the belt away from me."

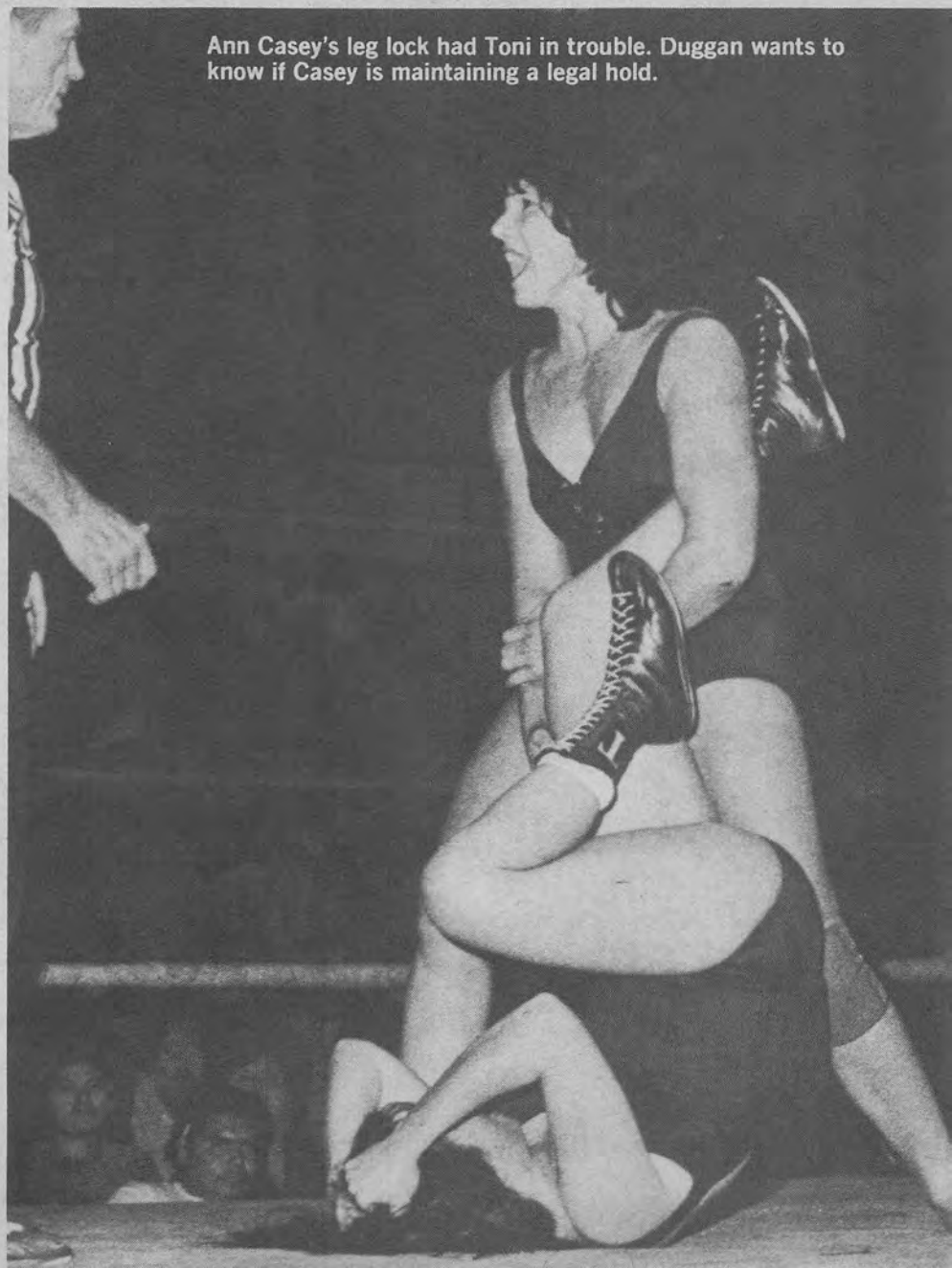
It's hard to think of Susan Green being vicious. She looks like too much of a lady. ▲

Toni Rose: GREATEST OF THEM ALL?

Defending her United States Wrestling Championship against Ann Casey, an opponent 35 pounds heavier, Toni Rose once again demonstrated that she is indeed worthy of the title she's held now for three years. She could be the best female star ever.

By Phil Miller

A step over toe hold by Toni Rose almost pinned Casey early in the match. Referee Johnny, "Redshoes" Duggan checks Ann's shoulders.



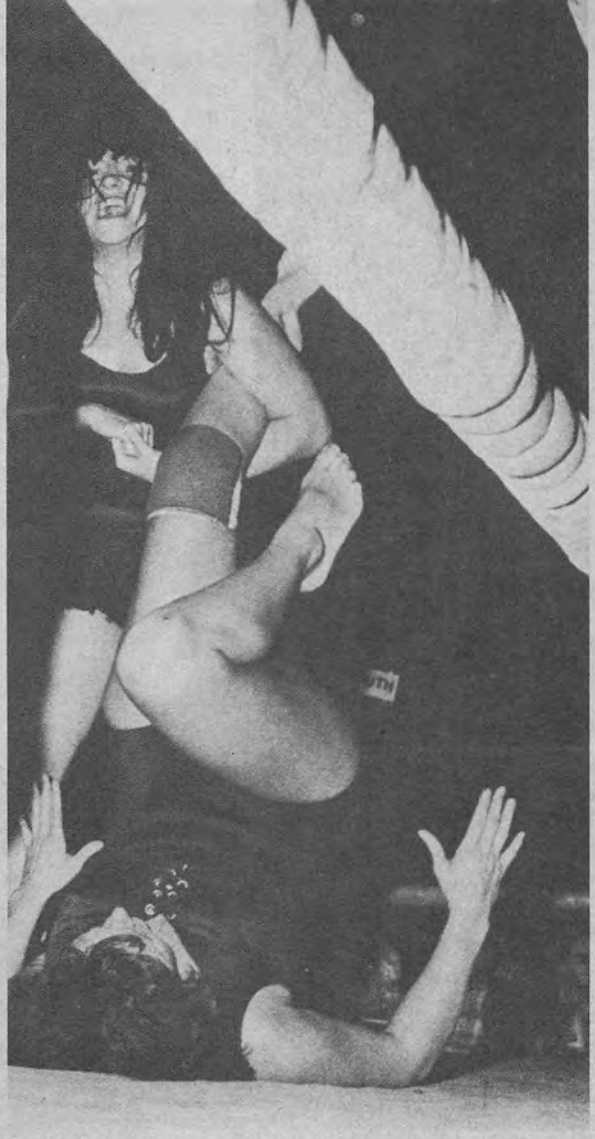
Ann Casey's leg lock had Toni in trouble. Duggan wants to know if Casey is maintaining a legal hold.

The United States Girls Wrestling Championship has been in the beautiful, capable hands of Toni Rose for over three years now. Challengers have come up against the black-haired, hot-tempered, mean Terre Haute terror, but none have come close to beating her in a title match.

It's true that Toni has not gone undefeated those three years. She's lost a share of her regular matches (mostly by disqualification) and tag team battles, but when she has to lay her belt on the line, Toni takes no chances.

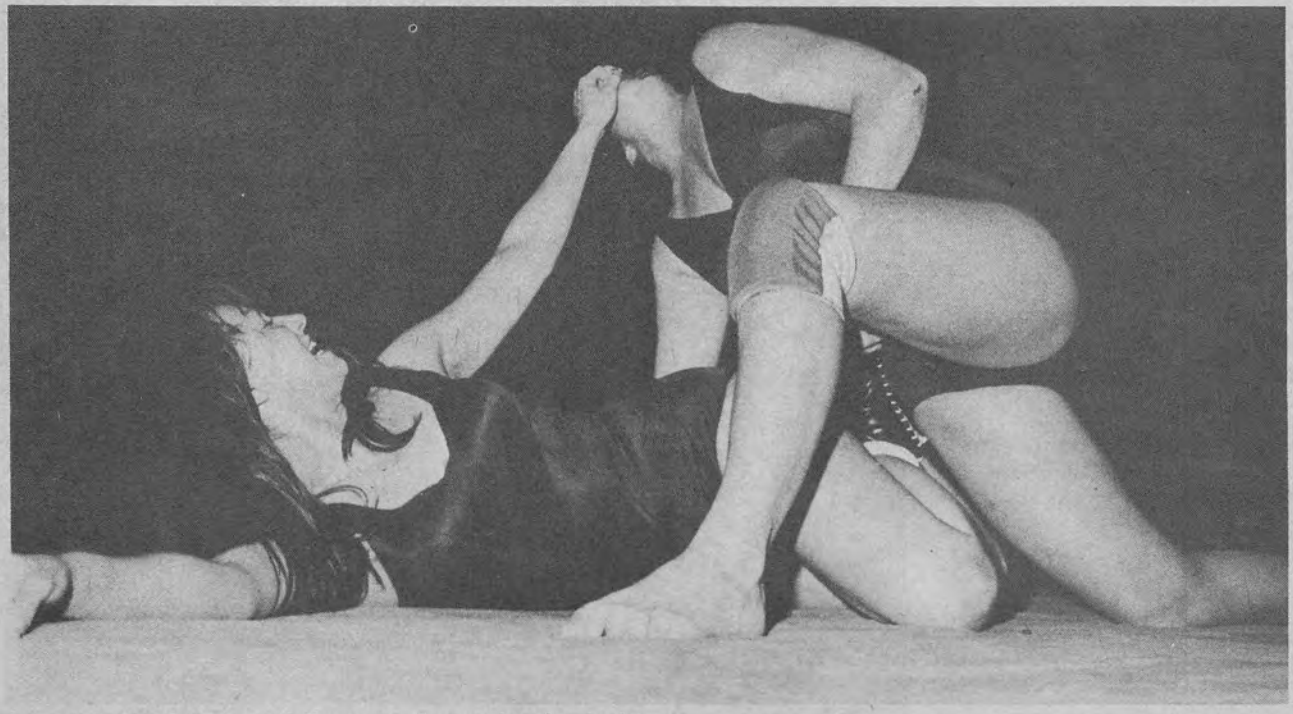
To prepare herself for a title defense, Toni does not wrestle for two weeks before the match. She does exercises and road work like a heavyweight boxer, but she insures that she gets plenty of rest.

On a wrestling tour of the Far

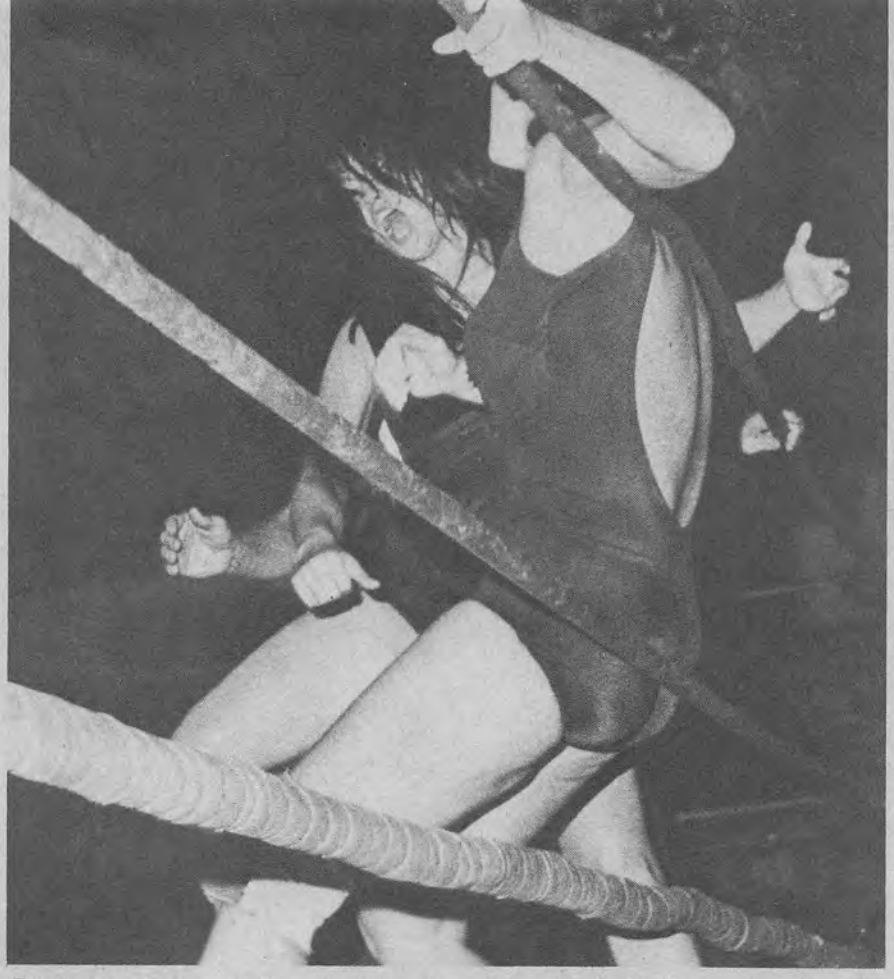


Realizing that Casey had an injured knee, Toni Rose kept getting holds that hurt knee more.

One of Casey's specialties is a leg lock which she used on Toni.



A hand in the face forced Casey to give up her leg lock.

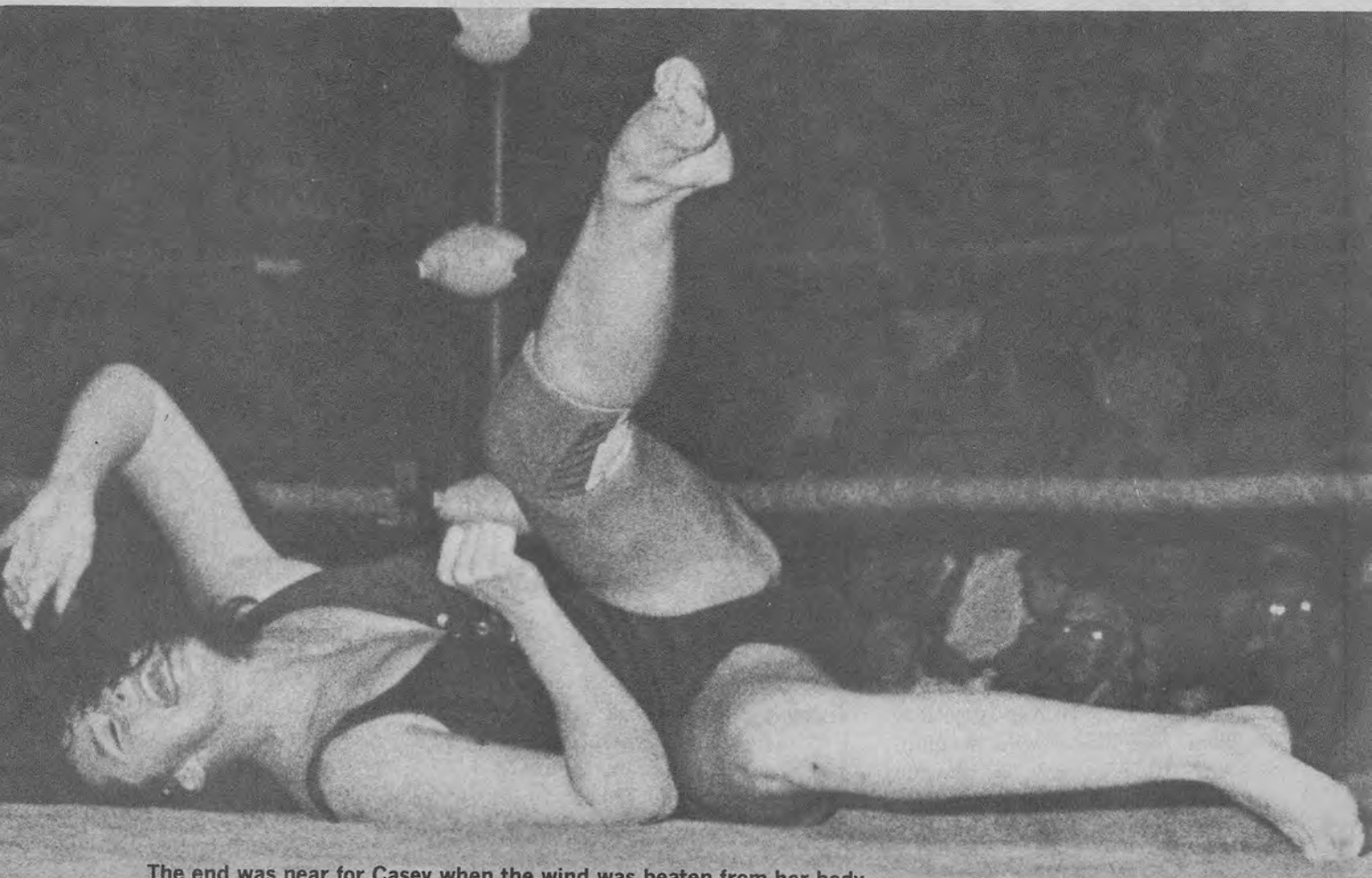


Toni's attack rained blow after blow deep into Casey's belly.

East, Toni learned that the wrestling commission had ordered her to fight Ann Casey for her title. Toni cancelled all matches for the period immediately prior to her California meeting with Casey. She went to Hawaii and sent for her personal trainer. On the beaches of Hawaii, Toni Rose trained for what she knew would be a stiff battle.

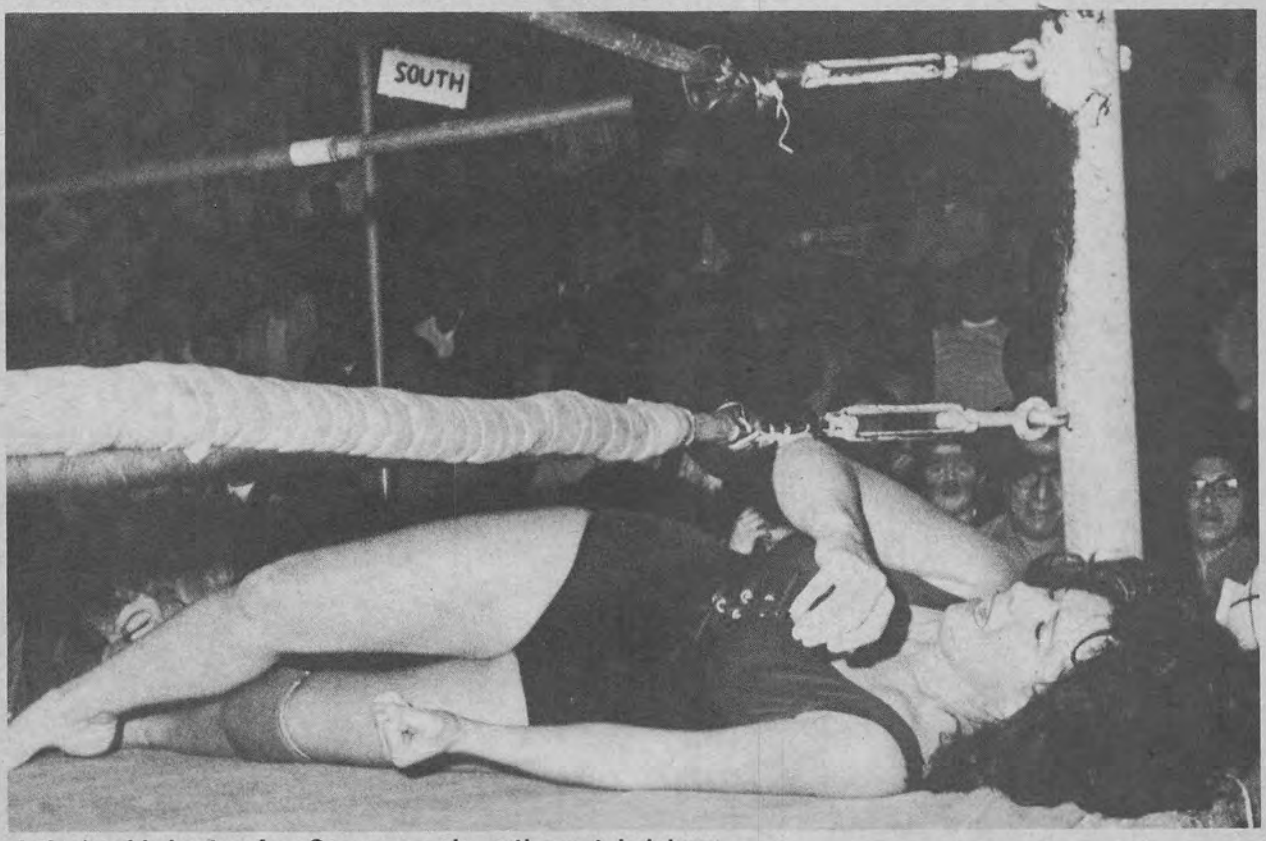
Only a few weeks before her trip to the Far East, Toni had been defeated by Ann in a non-title match. Toni did not want that loss to be repeated with her title at stake.

The night of the big match, Toni weighed in at 120 lbs., Ann at 155 lbs. Ann stands four inches taller than Toni.



The end was near for Casey when the wind was beaten from her body.

Tossed out of the ring, Casey was kept out by brutal Toni.



A thoroughly beaten Ann Casey sprawls on the mat, helpless.

But, finding special strength with her U.S. title in question, Toni was like a wild woman. Ann didn't have a chance against the brutal brunette.

After weakening Casey with devastating holds, Toni put the bigger girl away by using her fists and knees to beat Casey's belly like a drum.

The fight ended with Ann Casey semi-conscious on the mat, holding her stomach, thoroughly beaten by the still reigning U.S. Girl's Wrestling Champion, Toni Rose! ■

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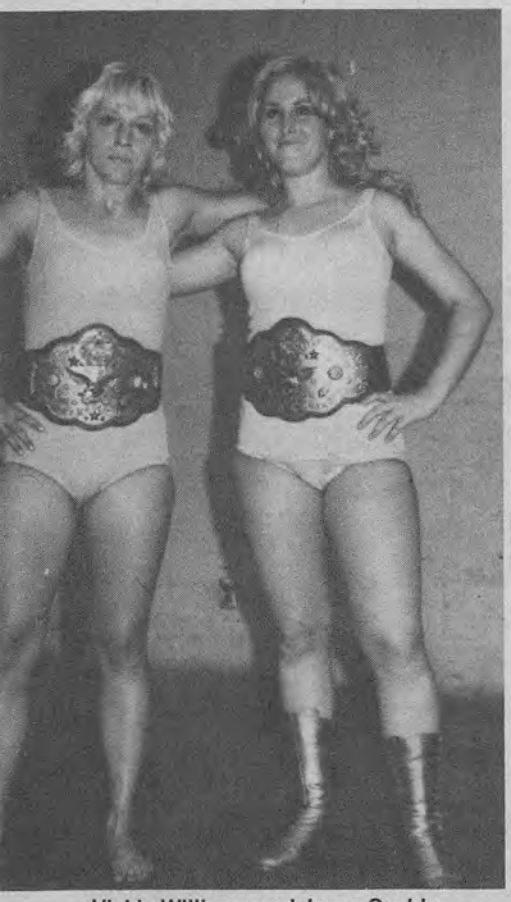
FEMALE DISCOVERY:

BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN!



Vickie Williams and Joyce Grable pose with their newly-won belts.

Story and Photos by Matt Ritter

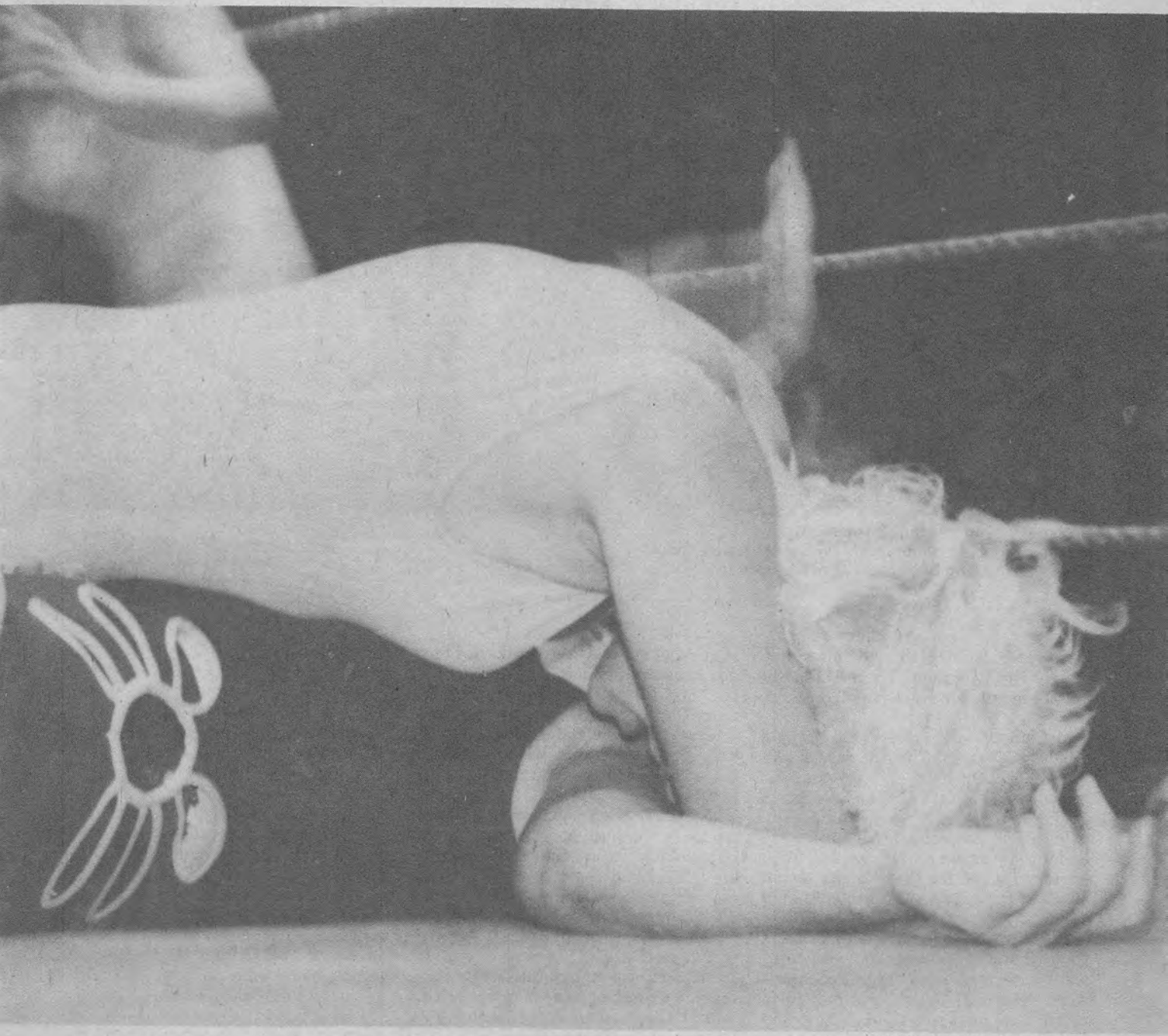
DO BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN? They sure do. Especially if you ask those blonde bombshells, Vickie Williams and Joyce Grable. The reason is so very simple. Vickie and Joyce did the impossible. They defeated Toni Rose and Donna Christinello for the WWWF World Women's Tag Team Championship. They performed this historic feat at New York's Madison Square Garden

For nearly two years, Toni Rose and Donna Christinello had been turning back tag team after tag team in bouts for their title. For a hectic year and a half the competition had been keen. Then, suddenly, the competition grew lean. It looked as if Toni and Donna would hold the title for quite some time.

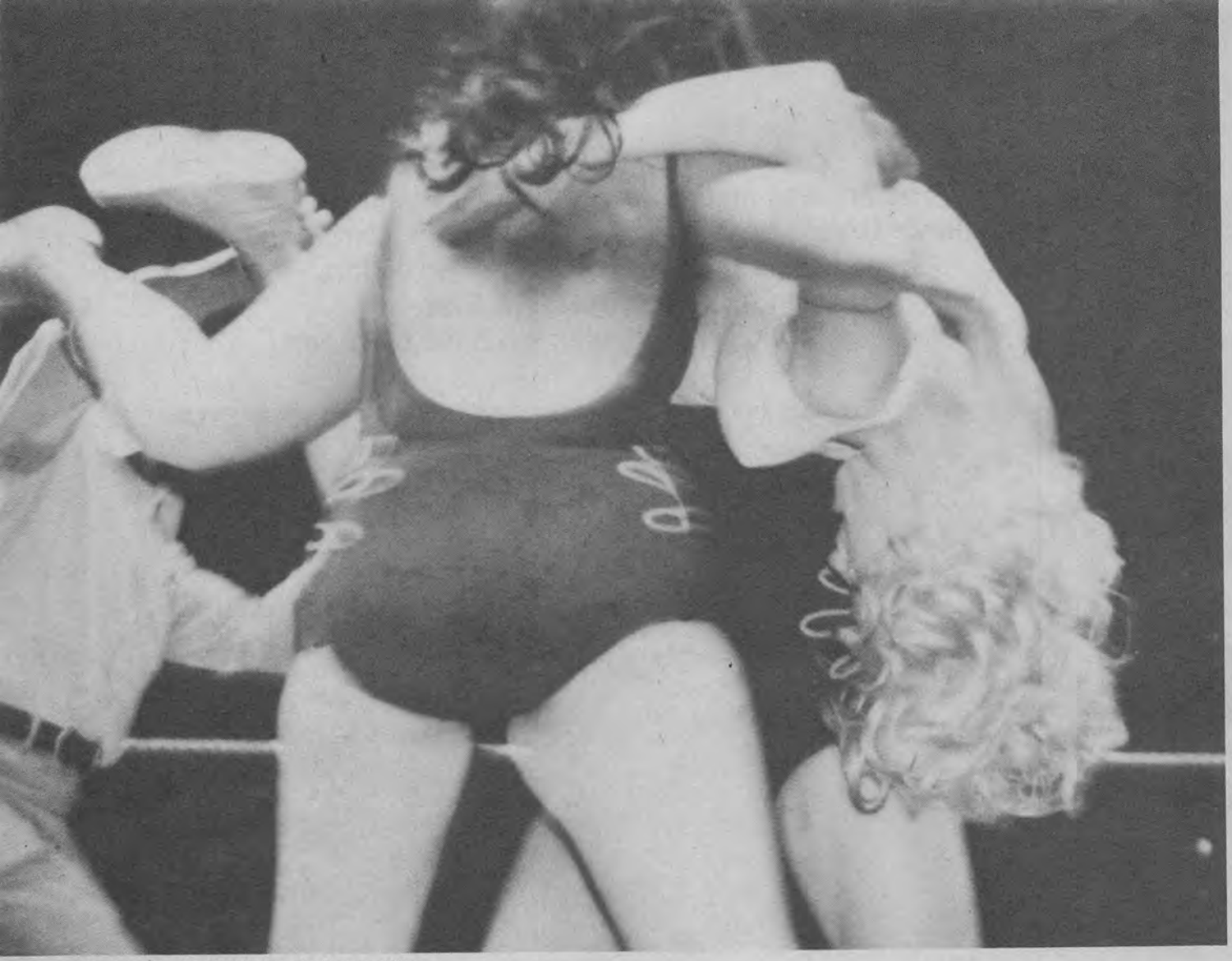
With the lack of competition, Toni Rose and Donna Christinello signed for single matches across the country. In between, they teamed with others when the promoters asked them to. Meanwhile, tag teams were forming. Two of them were Joyce Grable and Jan Sheridan and Vickie Williams and Debbie Johnson. Both these teams had a string of victories which put them in top contention.

In October, promotor Vince McMahon Sr. put together a star-studded card for Madison Square Garden. A week before the show Toni Rose and Donna Christinello informed McMahon they were willing to put their coveted belts on the line at the next opportunity. Although they were ten bouts signed,

History was made the night Vickie Williams
and Joyce Grable beat Toni Rose and Donna Christinello.
They became the first two women wrestlers
to win a title in New York State.
At least for one night, blondes did have more fun.



Vickie does the impossible
by pinning the favored
Toni Rose in final fall.



Grable survived this tangled mess. She was the victim of a double body slam executed by Toni Rose, in front, and Donna Christinello, rear.

McMahon decided to add one more match, the title bout. There was only one thing left. Find a tag team on short notice.

McMahon worked frantically trying to get a tag team. Then he struck pay dirt. Joyce Grabble and Vickie Williams both had a day off for the day of the card. They agreed to team up if the title was up for grabs. Joyce and Vickie had once been a regular team but had split up several months before in search of the Fabulous Moolah's World Championship.

The champions, Toni Rose and Donna Christinello, were unmoved when they were informed who their opponents were. "Big deal. Why we've met them before and murdered them," they commented. "That's why they split up in the first place. We also beat them when they were teamed with other partners. This match will be a piece of cake."

"It will be a real pleasure to beat those two peroxide blondes right in Madison Square Garden. We will get rid of any fool notions they think they have about becoming champions. We'll pull out their blonde hair from their black roots."

Those perky blondes, Joyce Grable and Vickie Williams, were thrilled to get a chance to try for the title. "This has been long in coming for me," said Vickie. "I've been trying with different partners for quite some time, but unsuccessfully. I know they can be beaten. Joyce and I had a good thing going some months back. We know what to do and we'll do it."

"This match means plenty to me," said Joyce. "I know Vickie and I can win it all with the right breaks. We have teamed up before and we're up for this match. The champions are tough but we can beat them. Imagine making history in Madison Square Garden. It would be a highlight of my wrestling career."

The black-tressed Toni and Donna wore black wrestling suits and their gold championship belts into the ring amidst the boos and jeers of the fans.

The blondes, wearing gold wrestling suits into the ring, were greeted with cheers and wolf whistles from the fans. They waved happily. The gold belts were handed to a commissioner and the referee read the instructions. With the sound of the bell, the action began.

Joyce Grable immediately got into trouble with Toni and Donna. It was plain to see the champions were going to divide and conquer, keeping their opposition in the wrong corners and wearing them down. After some rough going, Joyce managed to tag off to Vickie who sent both Donna and Toni flying with Dropkicks. Some punches by Toni and Donna had Vickie in a bad way once again, in the wrong corner.

Vickie fought her way clear and tagged to Joyce. Joyce held her own but was double teamed and pinned by Donna Christinello for the first fall. With the start of fall two, Joyce came roaring back and suddenly the trend of the match changed. This time Joyce cornered Donna in the wrong corner and

Toni Rose's face displays pain as Joyce Grable manages to do a little hair pulling.

both Vickie and Joyce gave her some of her own medicine. Then it was Toni's turn. Punches, hairpulling, hiprolls and dropkicks made Donna easy pickings for Joyce in taking the second fall.

The third fall saw a confident Joyce and Vickie put Toni and Donna on the run. When Toni and Donna tried their rough tactics they found Vickie and Joyce quite ready to retaliate the same way. Dropkicks played major parts for Joyce and Vickie. Vickie locked horns with Toni Rose and the two battled fiercely. Vickie gained the upper hand and dealt Toni a beating before pinning her for the final fall and the victory. The title was all theirs.

The fans were on their feet cheering the new tag team champions Vickie Williams and Joyce Grable. Both of them looked tired but very happy. The losers and now former tag champions tried to grab the belts from the commissioner but failed, and were ordered from the ring. Then the referee and ring announcer Bob Freed tied the gold belts around the trim waists of Vickie and Joyce. The blondes wore their belts proudly in the ring. They welcomed the accolades from the fans.

"This is the happiest day in my wrestling career," said Joyce. "We did it. We did what every tag team failed to do. We won the title. What a night! Just imagine the history we made tonight. We became the first women wrestlers to win a title in Madison Square Garden right in New York. What a fantastic thrill. I'm walking on cloud nine."

"I've been waiting for this night to happen for a very long time, said Vickie. "I knew all along that Donna Christinello and Toni Rose could be beaten. Joyce and I will try to hold the belts as long as we can. We are open for every challenge. We want to prove we are worthy champions. We're not going to dodge any team worthy of a title shot. Tonight we proved we were better. Tonight we proved blondes do have more fun. Yes, blondes do have more fun."

On this October night blondes Vickie Williams and Joyce Grable became the first two women wrestlers to win a title in New York. This of course is a historic happening. They are happy. The fans are happy. They proved they were the better team. They are the champions. They also proved something else. Blondes DO have more fun. ▲

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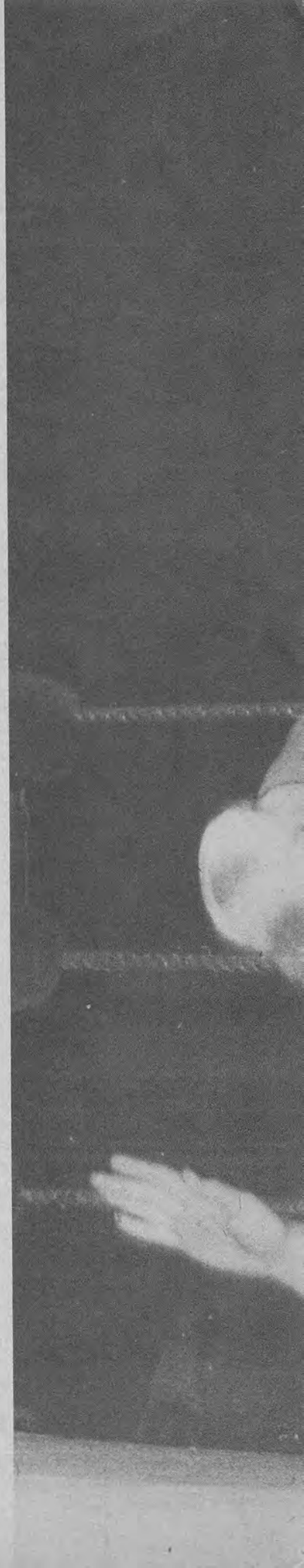
By George Napolitano

Back From Retirement

ANN CASEY FACES HER BIGGEST CHALLENGE

SHE STANDS 5'9" and has long silky black hair, beautiful green eyes, and a well proportioned 38-26-38 figure. With this description one might get the impression that the woman in question is a top movie starlet but in reality this lovely lady is a professional wrestler. In fact, she is one of the top wrestlers in the sport today holding at the present time the Women's U.S. Heavyweight title. Her name is Ann Casey.

Casey is no newcomer to the wrestling profession as she has been wrestling since 1960. Ever since her first entry into the professional ranks the sensational Casey has taken the wrestling world by storm. "The Panther Girl" as she



Winning the U.S. Women's Championship wasn't enough for this good-looking brunette . . . She has her eye out for a much more important title!

Skillfully using a reverse wristlock, Ann Casey sends her opponent tumbling.

was nicknamed early in her career, quickly became known by defeating everyone around, and her mastery over the women wrestlers has continued to the present time.

In her career Ann has wrestled in all the major circuits in the U.S. as well as appearing in the Bahamas, Australia and Japan. No matter where she has applied her skills, the fans have always flocked in droves to see this sensational brunette in action. But looks alone cannot help win matches, and in this regard Casey has always demonstrated a fantastic knowledge of all the various holds and maneuvers that help her win. Using her quick catlike reflexes and her amazing assortment of aerial acrobatics. Casey has been able to amass a winning percentage second to none on the sport.

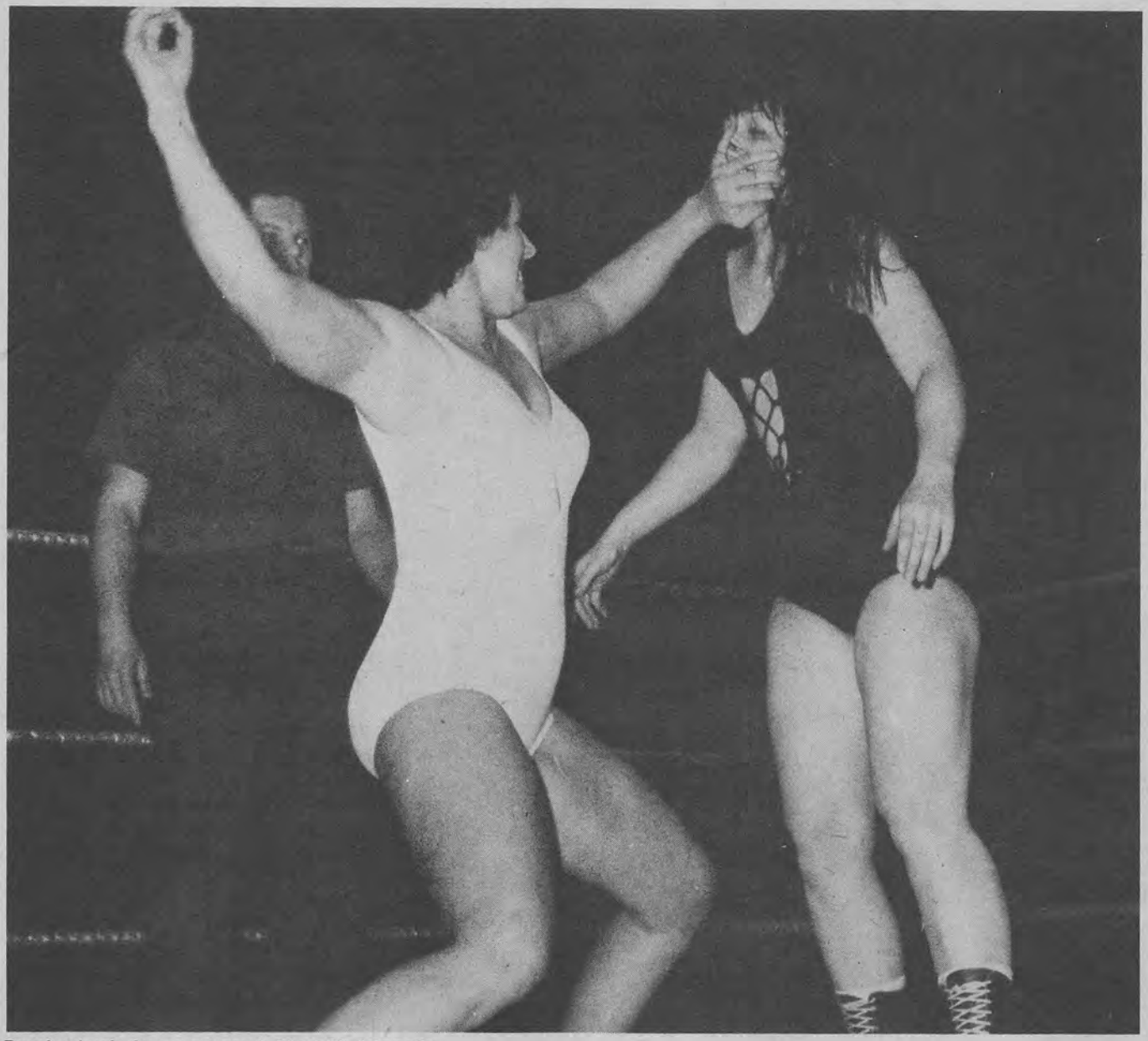
Besides the U.S. title which she currently holds, Ann Casey has also captured the Mississippi State title and the Southern states title in her climb to the top. The only honor left for the brunette to capture is the Women's World Championship. If and when Ann Casey gets her long awaited chance at this title, the sensational brunette has all the tools to knock the Fabulous Moolah off her throne.

Recently after a match in the Philadelphia arena, Ann Casey spoke in length to this reporter. The U.S. title holder began by saying "Right now I have only one thing on my mind and that is winning the Women's World Championship. I've been wrestling now for 14 years and I've won three belts in the process and I feel that each title conquest has brought me that much closer to the World's title. My latest title came when I defeated Toni Rose for the U.S. Heavyweight title in Dec. 1974 and I feel that my time has come to finally dethrone Moolah.

"The only problem is trying to get a match against her. I feel, however, that if I just keep on winning the way I have in the past Moolah is gonna have to give me that title crack and when she does I'll be ready to move right in and become the Women's champion."

Although a top star, the sensational brunette's whereabouts had remained a complete mystery to her many fans for almost two years. Once she re-appeared on the wrestling scene Ann was swamped with questions regarding her sudden disappearance from the mat and Ann answered the inquiry by stating, "I was injured in a match against a very

Showing her anger, Ann leans Donna Christanello against the ropes and gets ready to deliver a punch right to the jaw. Returning to action after an absence of two years, Casey has been impressive with a string of victories over the top ranked female stars.



Rearing back, Ann prepares to blast Christanello with a forearm smash. She admits that she feels much stronger following her layoff the past two years.

big girl who I won't name now, and she badly injured my arm and back knocking me right out of commission. On account of this injury I had to stay in the hospital for the better part of a year and once being discharged I had to stay at home recuperating for the next six months.

"Finally after almost two years of inactivity the doctor gave me the okay to return to the ring and now that I'm back in the swing of things I'm out to pay that girl back double for what she did to me. You know though I feel that the layoff really did wonders for me because I've managed to come back much stronger and I feel that I have much more determination than before and I know this is gonna help me attain my goal, winning the women's world title."

Since her return to the ring wars Ann Casey has met and defeated such top grapplers as: Paula Kaye, Donna Christanello, Dottie Downs, Peggy Patterson, and Toni Rose. Not one of these top stars has yet to give the brunette the slightest bit of trouble in the ring. Besides excelling in singles matches, Casey has also been quite successful in tag team encounters with Joyce Grable as her partner. Together, the combination of Grable and Casey, has proven to be one of the best working women's tag teams in the sport with fast tags, acrobatic maneuvers, and pure scientific know how evident in all their matches.

"I really like tag team wrestling," Casey said, "especially when I have a good partner in my corner. My favorite partner used to be Judy Grable and she really taught me a lot about this great sport. Since she is now retired I've teamed on occasion with Joyce Grable, and Joyce has proven to be quite a capable partner also.

"Actually, though, I really prefer to wrestle in singles matches because in these you can concentrate on your opponent and nothing else. But whenever the occasion arises I will get in there with Joyce and together we'll knock off any tag team who wants to challenge us in that ring."

Many women often wonder what makes a woman enter the professional wrestling ranks. When Ann was asked the reason behind her decision to pursue a wrestling career, the brunette answered, "One day the wrestling promoter down south told me, 'Ann you

Ann holds proudest possession—the U.S. heavyweight champion belt. Now she has her eyes set on Moolah's world championship.

have such long, beautiful legs that it would be a shame if you didn't show them off to the world, and for this reason alone you should become a women wrestler!' So after thinking about what he said I decided to enter the wrestling profession!"

Ann paused, smiled and then stated, "Well actually I'm kidding a little but in all honesty I was always athletically inclined while growing up and I always wanted to travel and see the world so I felt that for this reason professional wrestling would offer me my best opportunity to do all these things which I really loved. As I look back I must say that I am very happy that I chose this career because I have been able to do so many things that I never would have been able to do had I decided to stay home in little ole Mississippi."

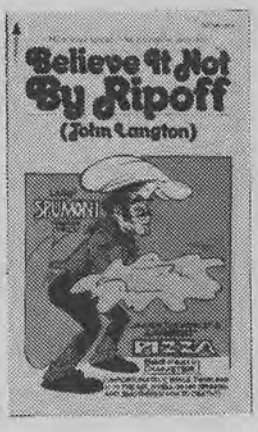
Even though Ann loves all the traveling and the bright lights and big cities of which she has now grown accustomed to, the popular Casey always makes it a point to go back home to "little ole Mississippi" whenever she has a few days off from her hectic schedule.

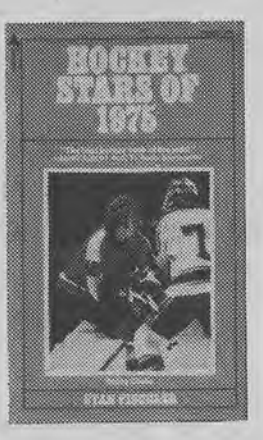
"You know there ain't nothing like going back home to relax and unwind after a very busy schedule," revealed Ann. "I just love to walk down by the beautiful pine trees and go back to my old swimming hole in Jackson whenever I can because this really perks me up.

"Actually, I'm an outdoors girl and I just love swimming, skiing, skin diving, horse back riding and also bicycling and I try to do as many things as possible while home. After a while though I'm ready to get back on the road and return to my first love, the wrestling profession."

Owing to the relative ease by which Ann Casey has been knocking off opponent after opponent there is a growing contingent of women wrestlers who would just love to see Ann Casey stay home in Jackson, Mississippi full time but, before she calls it a career, the good looking brunette still has one goal to accomplish. "I want to win the Worlds Championship," she vows. "I feel that I have the best credentials to finally knock Moolah from the top spot and I am on an active campaign to get a match against her and do just that.

"I've wrestled Moolah once before but it was in a non title match. I'm afraid I showed her too much that night because she's been running from me ever since. But I'm not worried because I know she can only run so far before I finally catch up with her. When I do I will become the new Women's World Champion.". ▲





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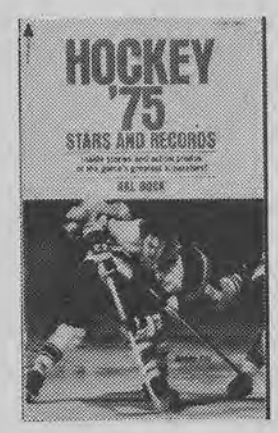

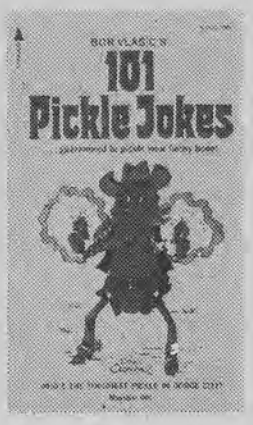

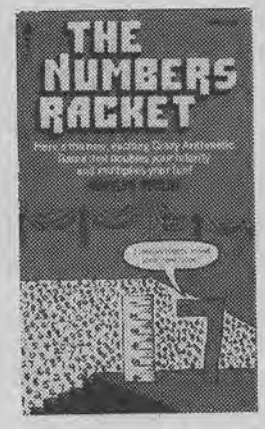

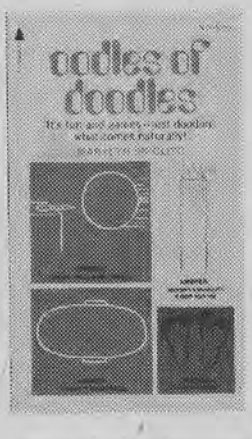

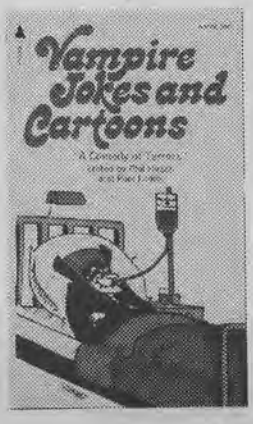

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The top names of professional wrestling sneer at it. In fact, they have demanded it be banned. But it's the latest craze and . . .

APARTMENT HOUSE WRESTLING IS GETTING BIGGER AND SEXIER!

By Joseph Pollard

Photos by Triumph Studios 7106 Alabama Ave., Canoga Park, Ca. 91306

Pert Judi McCall applies a hammerlock on Sue Denning.

IF ANYONE WERE to go to a newsstand and pick up a copy of any number of publications they would have more than likely seen a story on the "newest craze in wrestling," apartment house wrestling!

What actually is apartment house wrestling? Does it belong on the pages of a sports magazine?

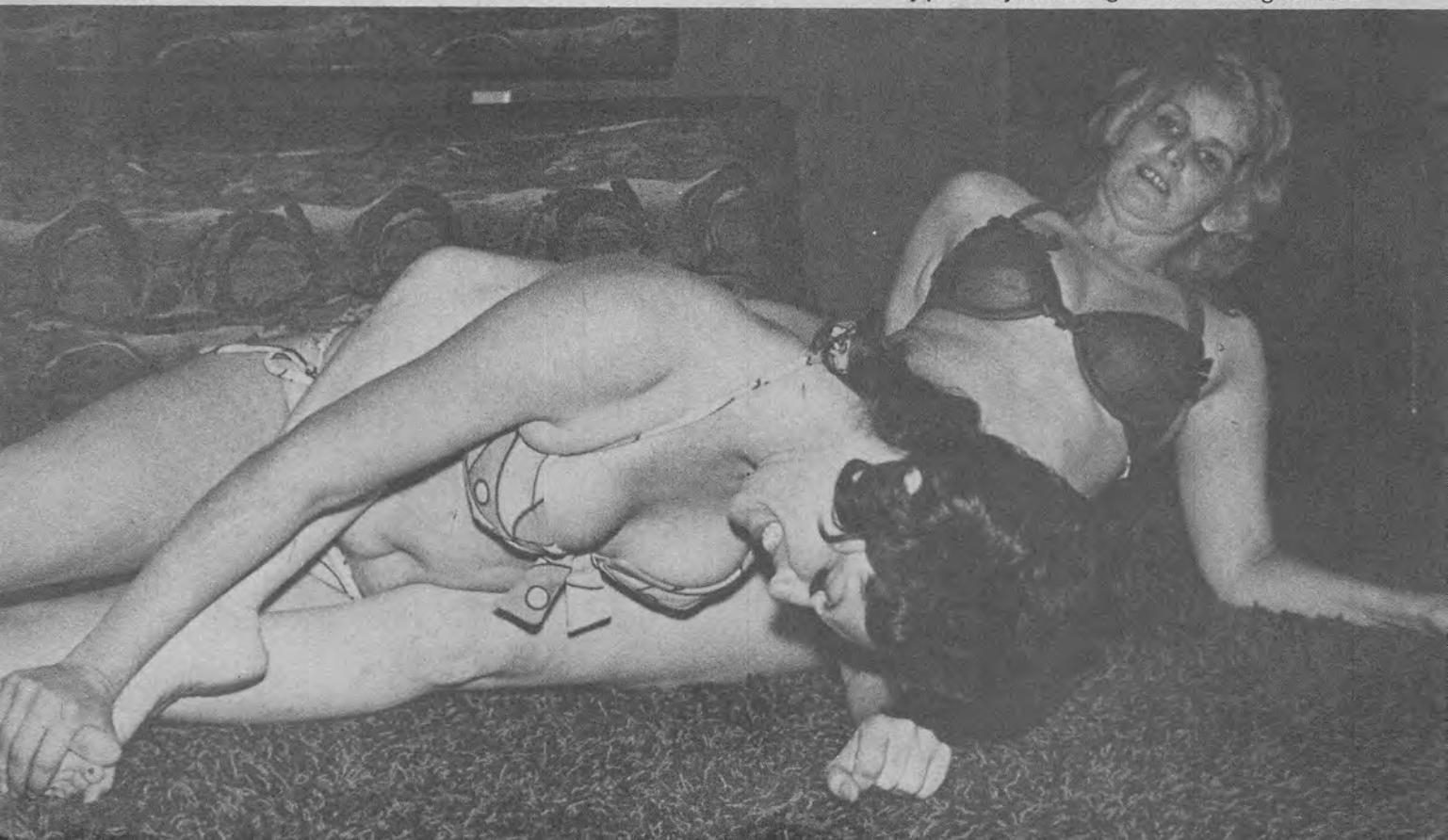
Apparently it does. Although there is some entertainment value surrounding the matches, they still nevertheless present the element of competition. There are the usual moans and screams, cuts and bruises and somebody has to end up the winner.

There have been many different

It's obvious that Judi is the villain in this match. Not only does she engage in some illegal hair-pulling, but she is also ready to bite Sue.

Pat Ward appears somewhat at a disadvantage against Sheri Whitlow. So how does she overcome it? Pat resorts to some good old-fashioned hair pulling.

Pat demonstrates some wrestling skill of her own. Almost effortless, Pat causes Sheri pain by perfectly executing the difficult leg scissors.



settings for these stories with some of the more recent headline articles bearing the titles, "The Night They Battled In The Nude"; "Friendly Bout Turns Into An Inferno Of Nude Flesh 'N Blood" and other similiar titles. Granted these types of articles might make for excellent copy in an entertainment magazine, but should they take up space on the pages of a sports publication?

Many prominent people in the wrestling world feel that they shouldn't and they have openly spoken out against these explicit sex articles.

"It's simply disgraceful the way they have depicted these matches," top east coast promoter Vince McMahon has stated. "These things have no right at all on the pages of a true wrestling magazine. They give women wrestling and the sport in general a bad reputation when in fact nothing like this really ever takes place."

The queen of the sport, the Fabulous Moolah, also has something to say about this fad. "I would really love to wrestle any one of these girls and show them what a real wrestling match is all about," charged Moolah. "I understand that there is even supposed to be an apartment house champion in California. Well, if she thinks she's so good why doesn't she try to become a pro and take on some real competition?

"The only thing that these girls are good for is posing for picutres. Not one of them even knows the first thing about wrestling, and yet they claim that they are able to wrestle. All of these apartment house wrestlers are frauds and they don't deserve to be written about in sports magazines."

"It gives the sport a bad reputation," Susan Green remarked. "Looking at these stories one's first impression is that all women's wrestling matches are like those depicted in these magazines. Whenever I see something like that in print I just burn up inside. These editors are supposed to be writing about wrestling as a sport and not wrestling as a sex symbol."

Another dissident is the current U.S. Heavyweight Women's Wrestling Champion, Ann Casey. Ann snapped, "I can't see how anyone could put such rubbish into magazines. These so called matches have been getting more ink than we do and they aren't even a real sport. I honestly think that these things are disgusting and I hope that it stops soon because it has already gone too far."

Not only are the women wrestlers up in arms over these apartment house matches, but also their male counterparts as well. Bruno Sammartino the current W.W.W.F. heavyweight champion has openly criticized the various publications that print such garbage and has gone on record saying, "I wouldn't want my sons reading any of these books. I know that if one of my boys brought home a book with stories in it like "Girls Battled in the Nude" I would take the magazine from him and promptly put it into the garbage. I personally don't think it's nice for 12, 13, 14, year olds to be reading about such rubbish, and besides it definitely gives the sport in general a bad reputation. For someone who doesn't really follow our sport and then notices headlines about nude wrestling on the cover, he would begin to wonder what wrestling is all about."

The amateur wrestling circuit has also felt the presence of apartment wrestling. There are several legitimate amateur women's groups throughout the country with the most prestigious being the Amateur Women's Wrestling Association.

The A.W.W.A. has branches in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut and it has as one of its goals the establishment of Amateur Women's wrestling in the local high schools and colleges. Although the A.W.W.A. has excellent ob-

The girls do mean business, and inflicting discomfort is one way of showing it. Judi McCall makes Sue Denning hurt with a powerful bear hug at the waist.

Sue finally gets her measure of revenge by turning the tables on Judi with a reverse armlock.

jectives it also has been facing quite a bit of opposition due to the adverse publicity that the stories of apartment house wrestling has generated.

Skip Baurley, the president of the A.W.W.A., has also spoken out against these apartment house wrestling matches.

"These things don't belong in the pages of a sports magazine," he said. "They give everyone involved with wrestling a bad name. My group has been wrestling for close to four years and we have done our best to try to upgrade amateur women's wrestling to that of a serious sport, but we have been receiving quite a bit of adverse publicity of late due to these apartment wrestling stories in various magazines.

"I will admit that we did at first start out as an apartment wrestling group but our girls never stooped to the hair pulling, biting, chewing, clawing, nude wrestling that these various publications have been depicting. We have now grown up, so to say, quite a bit and have our own gyms in which to train and compete and we are looking for new members who are serious about learning and wanting to wrestle. As I said before we are a legitimate group with over 50 members and anyone who is seriously interested in joining can contact us in care of the A.W.W.A., P.O. Box 19, Soundview Station, Bronx, New York 10472."

Barbara Raichel the A.W.W.A. lightweight champion summed up the goals of the organization saying, "We want to have amateur women's wrestling gain support at the grass roots level so that it can be ultimately offered in girls gym classes just as it is offered now to the boys. All of us who are members of the A.W.W.A. want to upgrade the opinions that the people have of amateur women's wrestling and women's wrestling in general.

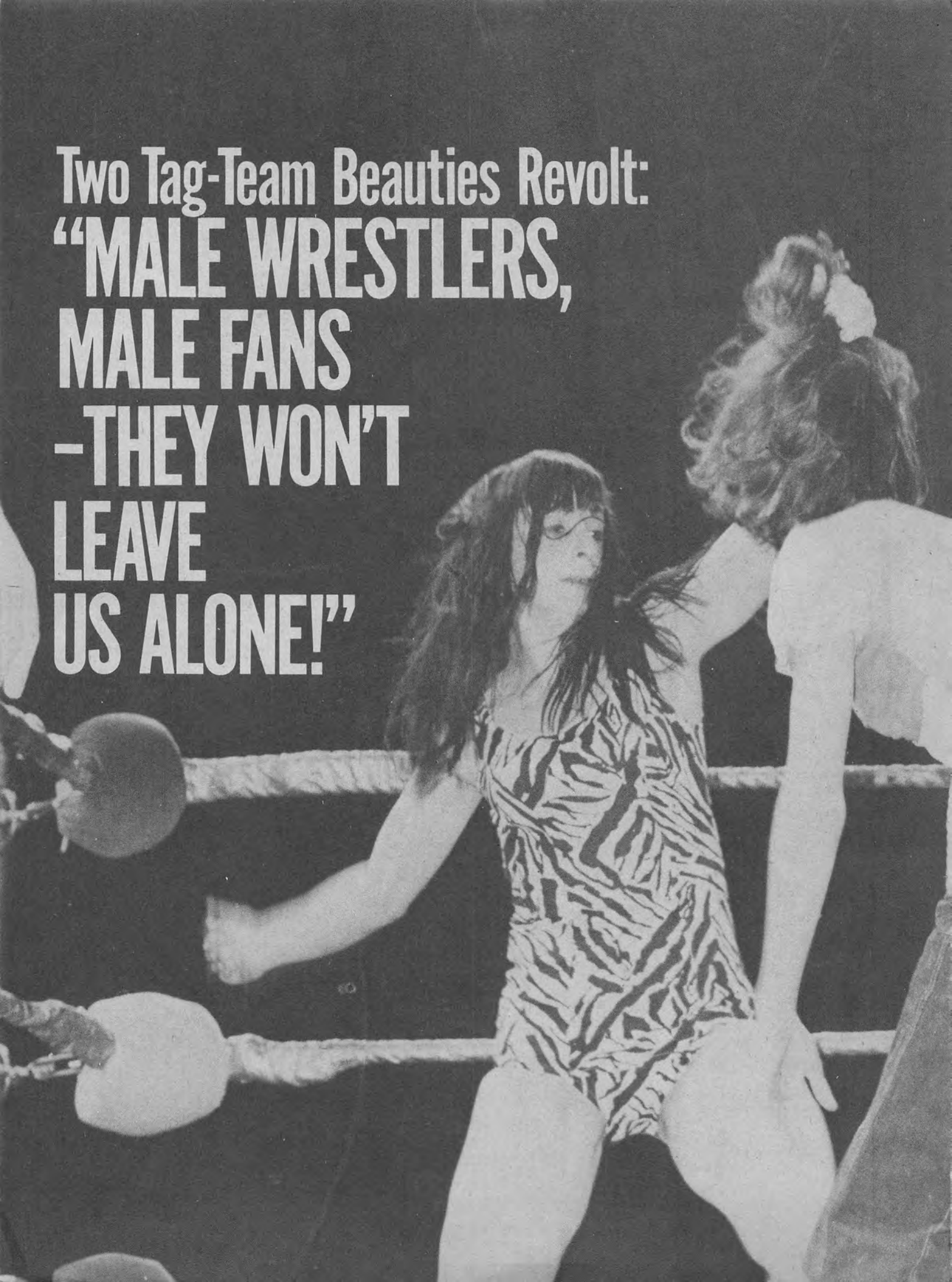
"The girls who have been participating in these alleged apartment house wrestling matches have really given us a very bad reputation and what they have been depicting has nothing at all to do with us here in the A.W.W.A. Wrestling is the number one sport in the world and in time all these apartment house wrestling frauds will be exposed and then the public won't have to suffer with that type of rubbish any more."

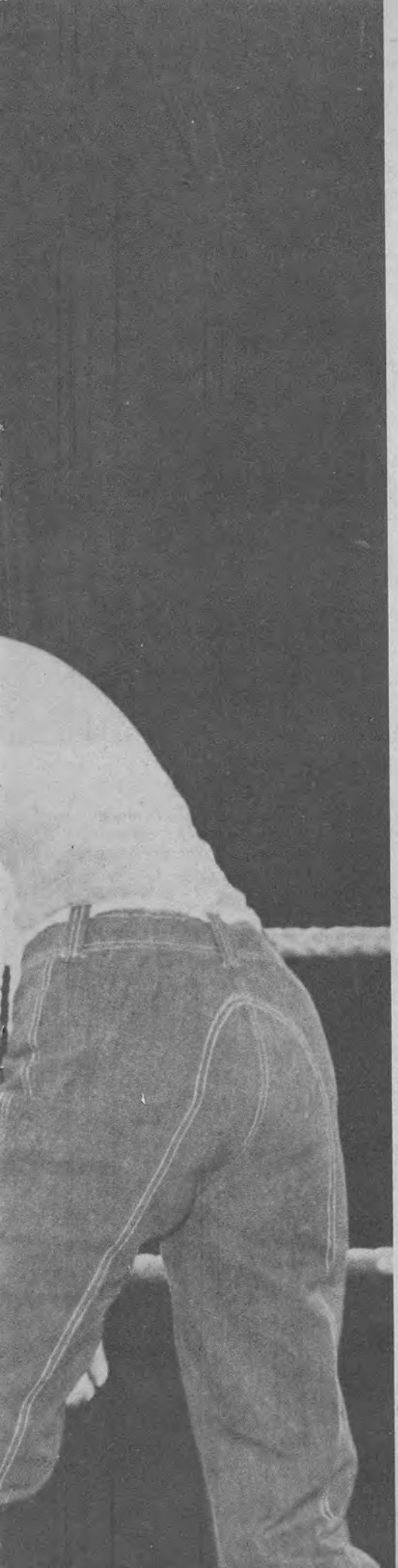
Everyone from the wrestling world champions to the various promoters are strongly opposed to the vivid depictions that several magazines have been giving to these apartment house wrestling matches.

However, it has generated nationwide popularity and a great many magazines have covered its happenings to satisfy thousands of readers. Some like it and some are opposed to it. But the fact is it does exist and is recognized for what it is. And, it's getting bigger all the time . . . ▲

Instead of coming to grips in the center of the ring, Pat Ward, left, and her opponent, Sheri Whitlow, prefer an apartment house setting.

Sheri clamps a choking neck scissors on Pat, using all the strength in her legs. It paid off, too, as Sheri gave up a few moments later.


Two Tag-Team Beauties Revolt:
"MALE WRESTLERS, MALE FANS –THEY WON'T LEAVE US ALONE!"



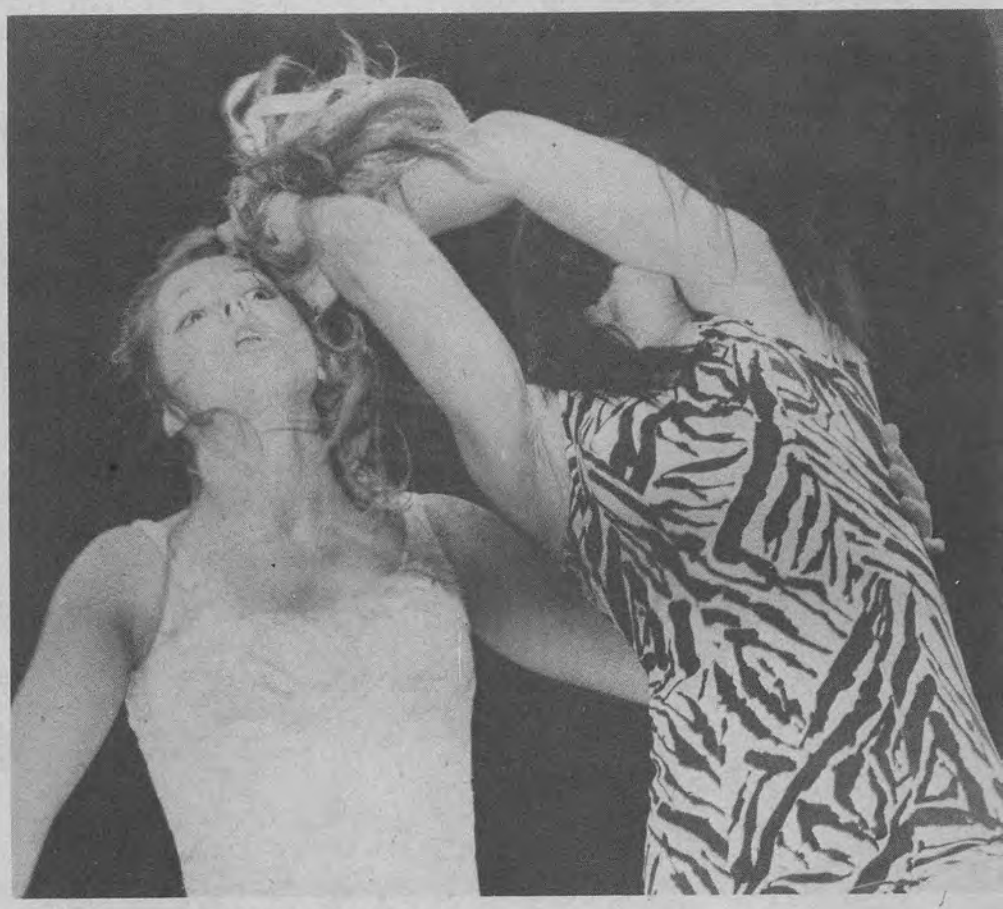
Hazards in the ring are one thing. But for Daisy Mae and Sharon Brooks, it's more of a battle to survive outside the ringposts.

By Larry Bender

THE MATCHES WERE over and the arena was dark and quiet. Nearly a half hour before this same arena was bustling with wrestling fans screaming for their favorites and booing those they disliked. Their were also whistles at four wrestlers because they happened to be females.

Leaving by a side door were two pretty women carrying their suitcases. They managed to get several feet before several wrestling fans stopped them for autographs. The gals obliged, smiling. They were Sharon Brooks and Daisy Mae.

The autograph signing over both women picked up their suitcases and headed for their car. Two male wrestling fans walked away somewhat dejected. During the course of signing the



Although newcomers to the sport, both Daisy Mae and Sharon Brooks have learned to take the hard knocks along the way. At left, Toni Rose grabs Daisy by the hair and rears back to throw a punch. Above, Toni again resorts to hair pulling as she gets set to flip Sharon.

The more experienced Rose has Daisy Mae in trouble. The referee gets down for a close look as Rose attempts to pin Daisy for victory.

Sharon Brooks turns the table on women's champion Fabulous Moolah during a tag-team encounter. Sharon tries to apply a headlock on Moolah.

autographs these two fans had asked Daisy and Sharon for dates. They had refused, very politely.

Daisy Mae, billed as The Kentucky Hillbilly, smiled but shook her head. She said, "This happens all the time. No matter what area we appear in the same thing occurs. Don't get me wrong about this. It is all very flattering to be asked out on dates but I wonder if there is more than just a date on their minds. Some are very polite but some are just plain blunt. I wonder what they think women wrestlers are. We are professional athletes and not sex objects.

"Even the male wrestlers try to date us. They won't leave us alone. They are constantly pressuring us. It's quite upsetting."

Sharon Brooks agrees with Daisy Mae. She says, "We get this continuously. One character a few weeks ago actually made it plain what he wanted. It gets rather tiresome. I don't mind the wolf whistles or the remarks in the arena. I expect that. I admit when I first had started to wrestle I blushed at the wolf whistles and the remarks but now I let them pass. It takes time to get used to it."

Daisy Mae from the hills of Kentucky has been wrestling for only several months. She has dark brown hair and is 110 pounds. In the ring she wears her hair in pig tails tied with a ribbon. Her costume consists of dungarees tied at the waist by a rope. She wears several different kinds of shirts to match. Her favorite is a polka dot one. She wrestles without wrestling shoes. She says, "I'm used to being without shoes. On my farm in Kentucky I never wore shoes. I always did my chores in bare feet. Of course I wore shoes to school, church or when I went shopping. When I was training to become a wrestler I tried wrestling shoes but then I found I was losing traction. Without wrestling shoes I have that traction and move faster."

Daisy Mae loves wrestling professionally and was a wrestling fan as a youngster. Daisy says, "Wrestling always was a big sport down south. I always made sure I was home to watch the matches on TV. It took some heavy thinking to give up the farm life for wrestling as I'm a home girl at heart."

So far Daisy Mae has come along steadily in the pro ranks. She has teamed with other women wrestlers as: Vickie Williams; Joyce Grable; Debbie

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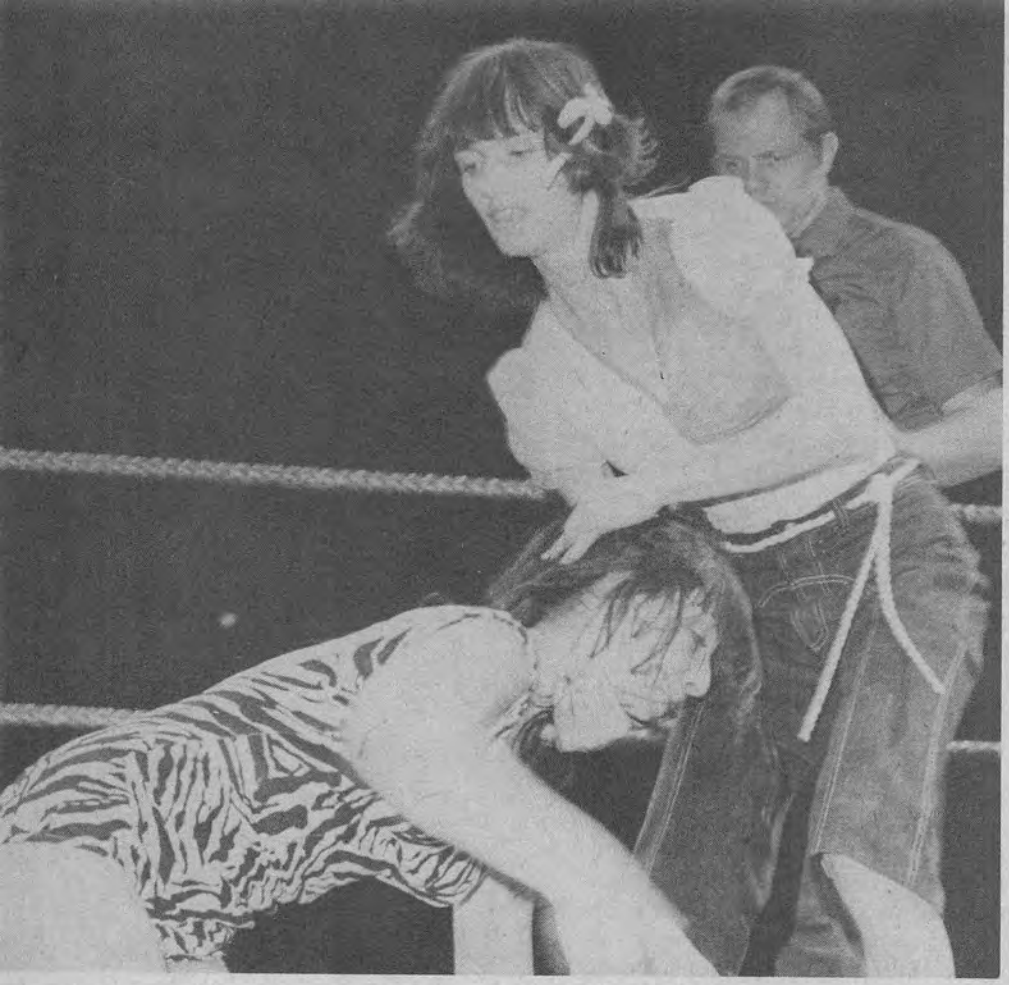
Daisy Mae clamps a leglock on Toni Rose. She prefers to wrestle barefoot, having been raised to go without shoes as a child. Daisy is billed as The Kentucky Hillbilly.



Johnson and Sharon Brooks. She feels at home in either tag matches or singles competition.

Daisy comments, "I want to learn and that means getting in there with them all in all kinds of matches. So far my toughest bout was against Champion Fabulous Moolah. I must say she is marvelous. I gave her a good match but she is really great. Right now she has all that great experience but my time will come."

Sharon Brooks is another newcomer

Daisy Mae gives Toni Rose a neck twist. Ever since she was a little girl, she wanted to become a wrestler. "Wrestling was always a big sport down South," according to Daisy Mae.

Toni Rose puts a reverse headlock on Sharon Brooks as referee asks for a break. "Daisy Mae and I have a good combination going," Toni says. "We're both young."

to pro women wrestling. She has only a few more months experience than Daisy Mae. Cute Sharon has light brown hair and her 118 pounds is distributed very nicely. As did Daisy Mae, Sharon got interested in wrestling from TV. Being very athletic in high school, Sharon figured wrestling being a challenge. She finally made up her mind to try her hand at wrestling.

Sharon also doesn't mind singles or tag team matches. She has teamed with Debbie Johnson and Daisy Mae more often than with any other women wrestlers. She says, "Daisy Mae and myself have a good combination going. We are both learning together. We lack the experience but together we have formed a good team."

Sharon shows great promise for future mat stardom. Her big chance came early in her career in a title bout with Fabulous Moolah. Says Sharon, "This definitely was the high spot in my career so far. No I didn't beat Moolah but I came very close. I missed a flying dropkick and that was all Moolah needed. I'm not downhearted at all over this. I did my best and being a newcomer I feel I made a good showing."

Both gals are tough competitors and they know mat stardom is just around the corner. Their careers come first. Marriage is always in back of their minds but that is for later.

Daisy Mae comments, "I haven't trained hard and long to give it up just like that. I have a goal to accomplish and will try to do just that. Sure I would love to get married but not right now. I have a promising wrestling career and that comes first. I date but nothing serious."

Sharon Brooks says, "I've received a proposal of marriage from this fella I used to date but I would have had to give up my mat career. I felt I wasn't ready. Listen I love wrestling and hope to be champion in the future. I find wrestling very exciting and rewarding. I don't mind dating but with no strings. I want to have some fun first."

More and more women are going out into the business world and want to be treated as equals to men. Professional wrestling is a business as well as a sport. Being wrestlers is also very competitive and the better you are the better the rewards. Both Daisy and Sharon know what they want out of wrestling. They are determined to get it. Wrestling comes first with them. So fellas when you ask for their autographs be content with just that. These gals can play rough even if you think of them as sex objects. ▲

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"BIG CITIES SCARE ME!" ADMITS COUNTRYGIRL JOYCE GRABLE

By Lou Sahadi

She doesn't like city life. Too many people and an unfriendly atmosphere make the cute blonde yearn for the country.

SHE WAS IMPRESSED with it all. She sat there having a late night dinner in one of New York's well known restaurants. Only hours before she was wrestling in Madison Square Garden before a capacity audience. Now, she was trying to unwind. The only noise was from a trio in the back of the posh room. It was all very strange to Joyce Grable.

The pert blond wrestler is basically a shy person. Night-life in a big city isn't a common occurrence for her. She is a small town girl, one who prefers the quiet life. She much prefers to walk around barefoot with the touch of grass under her feet. She is a country girl.

But she is also a wrestler. That is her main thing now. Earlier in the evening

Joyce Grable has the situation well under control as she bends the arm of the reigning champ, Fabulous Moolah.

Grable works on the leg of Peggy Patterson. Joyce is one of the top young stars of women's wrestling, but admits to being uneasy when appearing in big cities.

she was wearing wrestling tights. She wore gold boots and a gold jacket over her black tights. And she waited alone in her dressing room for two hours for her match to begin. Now, appearing relaxed, she wore a black velvet dress with white lace trim and a white pearl choker as she sipped a soft drink.

"I'm not used to being in big cities," said Grable. "As a matter of fact, they scare me. They're so big, so many people. And nobody knows anybody else. People always seem to be hurrying around with worried looks on their faces. I'm not used to that. It's frightening.

"Why, back home, everyone knows everyone else. They are much more friendlier. It's quite a different feeling. I am much more relaxed. Not like now. It's hard to relax in a big city that has so many people not knowing each other. I much prefer the atmosphere back home."

Home for the cute eyeful is LaGrange, Ga. She is one of seven children, with three brothers and three sisters still at home. As far as she could remember, she had always wanted to become a wrestler. When she was 13 she had the whim. She always watched the wrestling shows on television. Occasionally, she would accompany her father to nearby Columbus for the live matches at the arena.

After graduating high school, she worked in a jewelry store in LaGrange for a year. But she wasn't happy. She wanted to travel. And she figured the best way was to become a wrestler. Her mother wasn't at all happy upon her decision. She felt that Joyce should think about getting married and raising a family. But Joyce wasn't ready for marriage.

Her idol at the time was a namesake, Judy Grable. She figured she would ask her for help on getting started. So, one night she went to the matches at Columbus and waited until the matches were over to talk to Judy. The conversation went well and Joyce was on her way to becoming a professional wrestler and fulfill a childhood wish.

"Judy asked me how serious was I in wanting to become a wrestler," recalled Judy. "She made it clear to me that it wouldn't be easy. That a lot of sacrifice and hard work was involved. And then there still wasn't any guarantee that I would make it.

"We had a long talk. I told her that I was willing to accept whatever hard knocks that were ahead. I told her that I was 19 and had no obligations at home or no boyfriend waiting around. At 5'6", I had the size so I was ready both physically and mentally. So Judy agreed to train me."

That was three years ago. For the first year, Judy, between her wrestling assignments, worked with Joyce. It wasn't until then that Judy decided that Joyce was ready to turn pro.

"Judy was certainly right," admitted Joyce. "A lot of hard work was involved. There was much more to learn than I imagined. And the pain. Whew, there

were some days when I didn't think I would be able to train the next day. But it was all part of the training. Now that I look back at it, it was worth it. I was well prepared for the bumps and bruises that were ahead of me.

"My mother still didn't approve of my career. In fact, when I wrestled in Columbus, she wouldn't come to the matches. However, my two older brothers did. They also got emotionally involved with my matches. Whenever I was in trouble, they would charge up to the ring in an effort to help me. Seeing them close by gave me moral support at least. They later disclosed to me that mom would always ask them how I was doing. So, I know down deep, she was pulling for me, too."

But, Joyce doesn't get home too often now. She is on the road at least three weeks out of a month. Her home base is Columbia, S.C. So, when she does get home it is only once every three months. But she stays in close touch with her family by phone and by writing when

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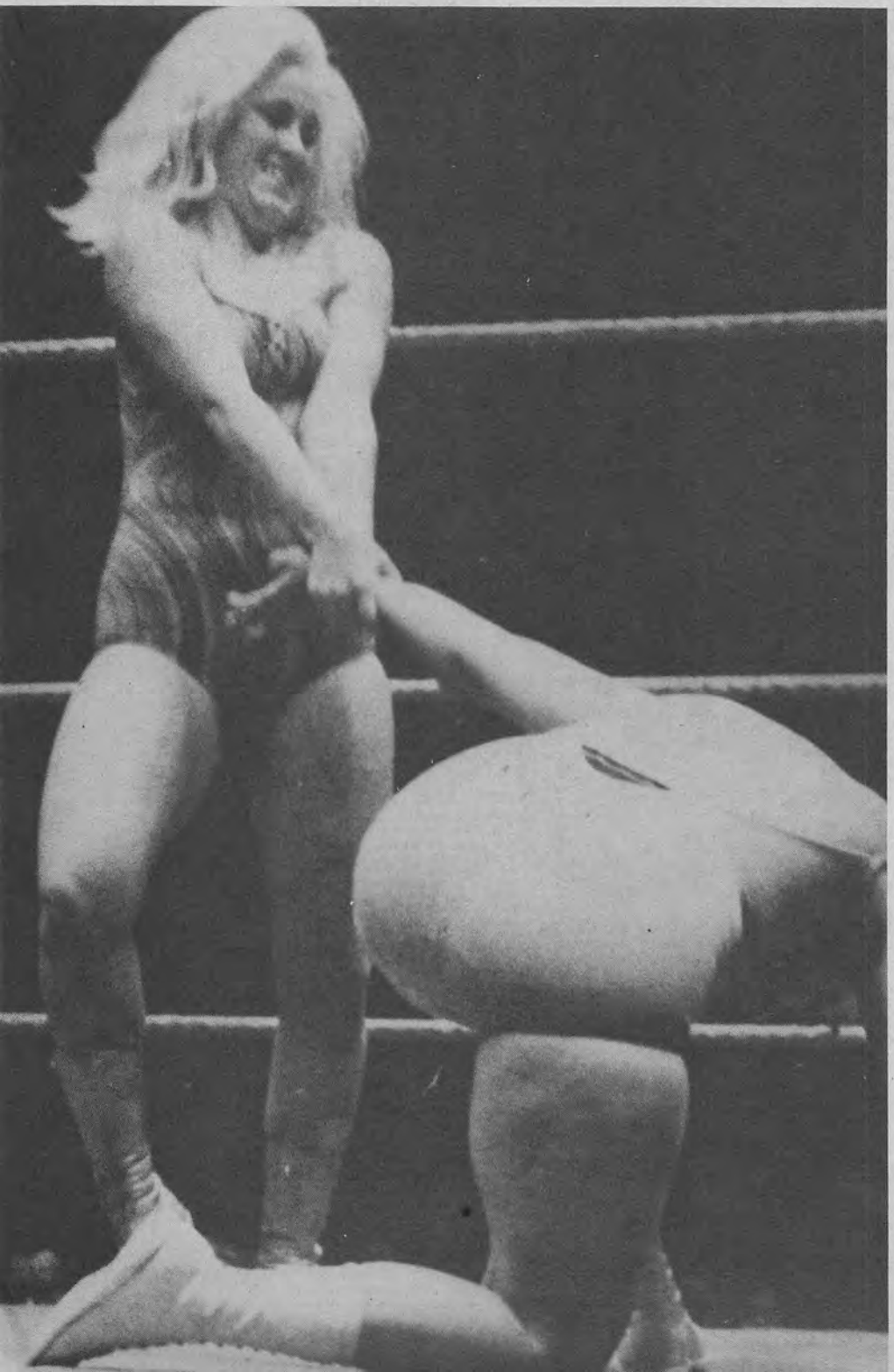
Joyce is in a bit of trouble. Maria Ramos scores an advantage from behind.

Referee puts belt around Joyce's waist after tag team championship match.



Employing a reverse wristlock, Grable has her opponent at a distinct disadvantage.

she does manage to have a day or two off.

"I must admit that it does get lonely being on the road so much," revealed Grable. "Down deep I'm a country girl at heart. I don't have much of an opportunity to go out. After a match, we usually have to leave for another city and another match the following night.

"I usually team with Vicki Williams in tag matches. We travel a lot together which helps to relieve the loneliness to some degree. We'll be going to Japan soon for a six week tour. I'm looking forward to that. I've always wanted to visit Japan.

"I do have a boyfriend back home now. But it's nothing serious. I won't let it get to that stage yet. I have a lot of traveling and a lot of wrestling to do, like another 10 years or so. I'm only 22 and I'm not about to settle down. I have a great understanding with my boyfriend. I travel and enjoy it and he doesn't pressure me. I like it that way.

"Besides, I don't have time for ro-

mance. And anyway, I don't trust any city men. They think I'm only a country girl and try to press their advantage. So, I just brush them off. I don't need any of their big talk. I may be from the country, but I'm no country bumpkin."

Just then a middle-aged diner from a nearby table asked Joyce to dance. She politely refused. He pressed his demand again and once more Joyce turned him down. Dismayed, the guy returned to his table.

"I'm not much for that type of dancing," confessed Joyce. "I'm a country western fan at heart. I'm much more comfortable with Donna Fargo and Charlie Rich. You know the old saying, you can take the girl out of the country but you can't take the country out of the girl.

"Honestly, I'm uncomfortable in big cities. If I wasn't with friends tonight, I wouldn't be here. I'd be back in my hotel room writing a letter or reading a book. I love the peace and comfort of being alone.

"I'm even afraid of walking on the street after a match. So many men make passes which I don't appreciate. It's often late at night and there aren't too many people on the streets. Up to now, nothing serious has ever happened. But I am always on my guard.

"I had a bad experience inside the arena after a match in Baltimore. I was walking from the ring to the dressing room when a fan grabbed me from behind. A lot of times fans are vulgar during the course of a match. They shout all sorts of obscenities. You have to ignore them. If you show them that it bothers you, they'll keep it up.

"That sort of stuff I am prepared for. But this one fan caught me by surprise. He snuck up on me and grabbed me on the rear. I started swinging and the police quickly came to my aid. I guess I was more embarrassed than anything else. But I sure was mad.

"Later, the police brought him into my dressing room. He tried to deny that he grabbed me. He was shaking. The cops told him that if he didn't apologize to me, they would arrest him. Frightened, the guy fell on his hands and knees and apologized. The police looked at me and asked me if I was satisfied. When I nodded yes, they took the guy out, gave him a severe tongue lashing and let him go."

The hour was late and now Joyce had to go. She politely said good night and got into a waiting taxi. At that moment, she looked relaxed. She was on the way to the quiet of her hotel room. A little country music would help her sleep. ▲

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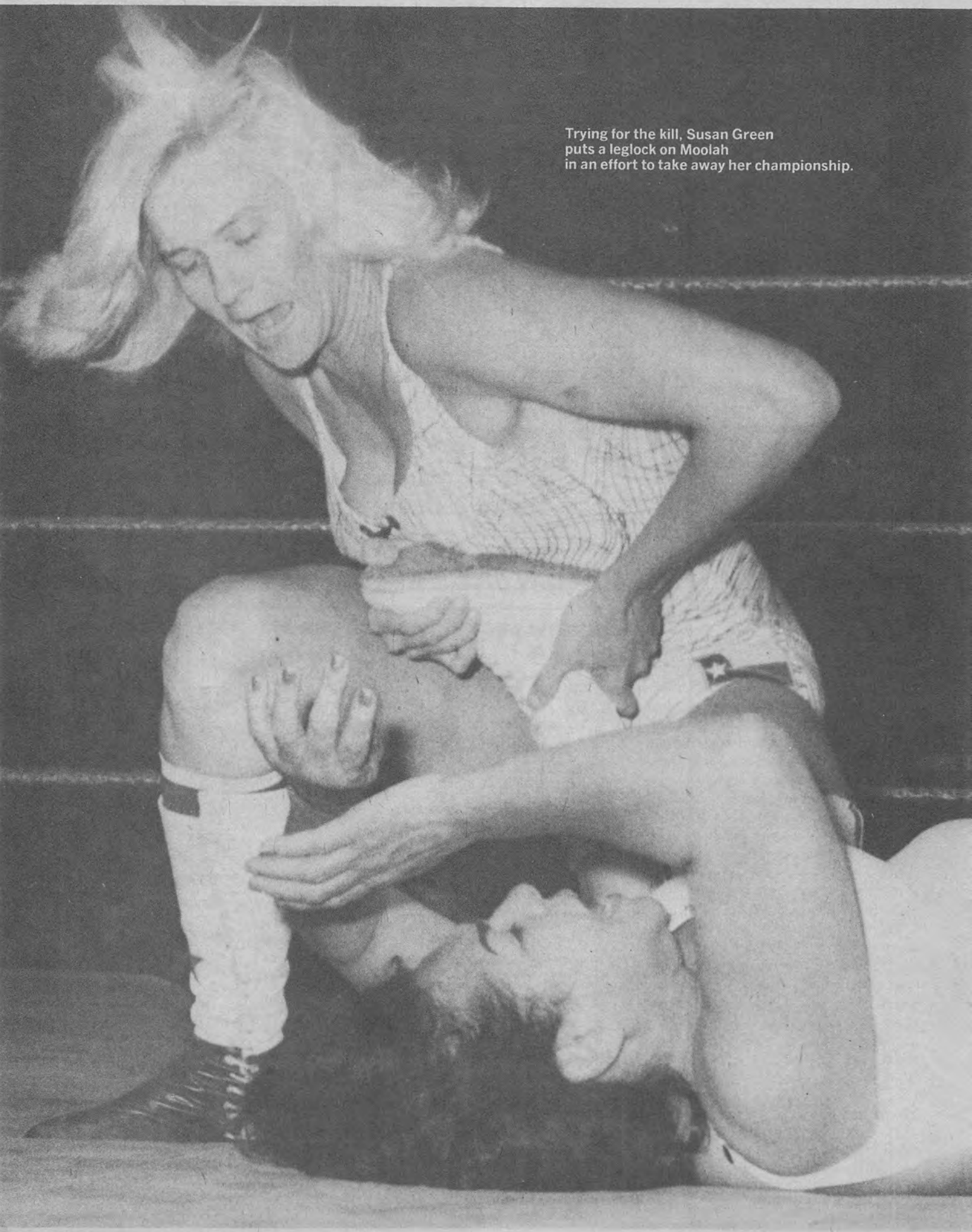
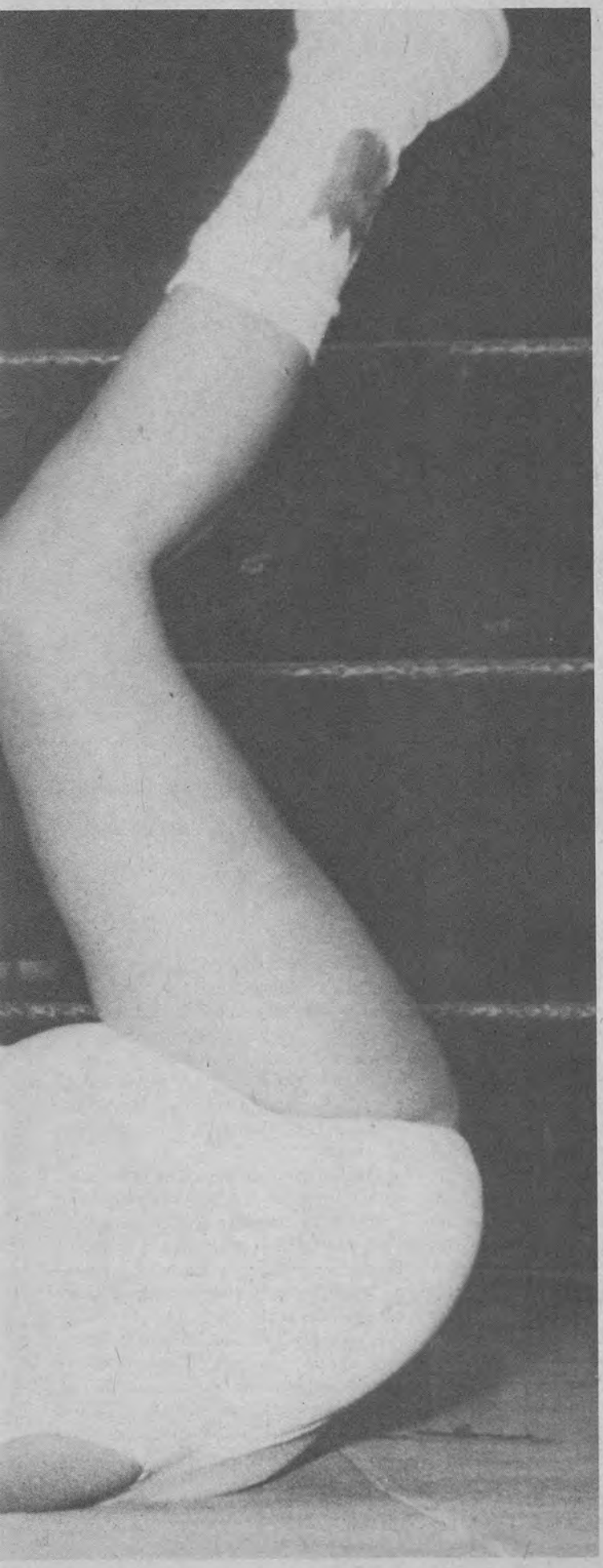


Trying for the kill, Susan Green puts a leglock on Moolah in an effort to take away her championship.



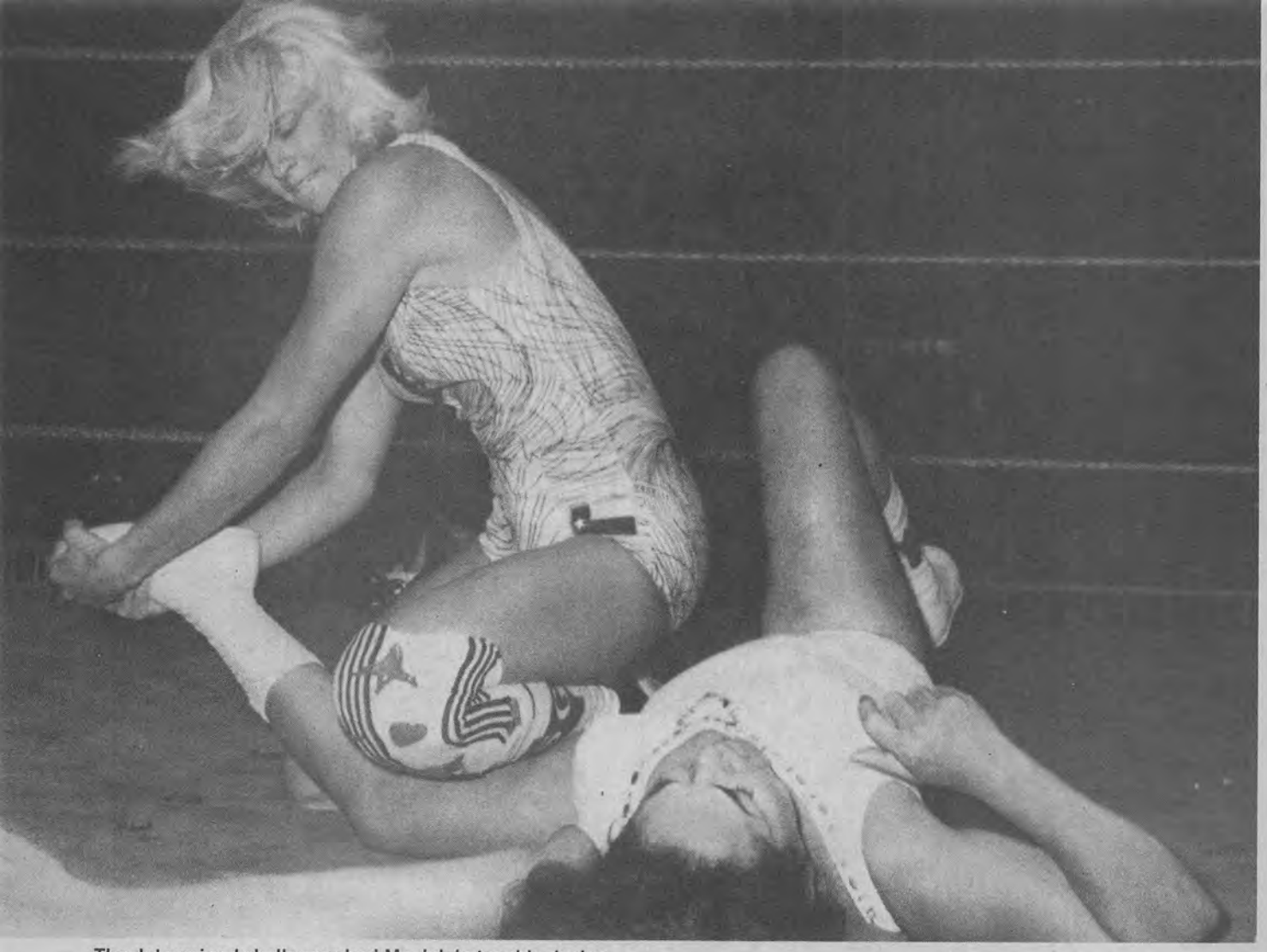
WILL MOOLAH EVER LOSE HER TITLE?

Wrestling fans keep hoping that the veteran villain will be defeated. And it almost happened, until Susan Green got too careless.

By Lou Sahadi

SHE SEEMED a bit edgy. She sat there fumbling with the buttons on her warm up jacket. It was a short, white knit robe with the state of Texas emblazoned in blue on the back. She also wore a blue cowboy hat that was trimmed with a red and white band. Susan Green looked anything but a female wrestler as she tried to relax in her spacious dressing room in New York's Madison Square Garden.

Susan was snappily attired. She had on blue custom made boots that had the initials "SG" on each side and were laced from the inside. A knee injury a few months back caused her to wear an elastic brace on her left knee. Although there wasn't any swelling, the knee required protection from any possible further damage.



The determined challenger had Moolah in trouble during most of the match but couldn't pin the wily champ. She secured another advantage with leglock on Moolah.

This was not just another match for Green. Far from it. She was waiting to meet the world's woman champion Fabulous Moolah in a title match. It was her third attempt in the past two years to challenge Moolah for the championship. It was understandable why she had trouble relaxing. The match means so much.

It meant so much to Susan that she trained for over a month in seclusion in her native Texas. She trained so hard that she trimmed 11 pounds off her statuesque figure. Her body was firm and carried 170 pounds on her 6-1 frame. Now, 21, she has been wrestling professionally for five years.

"I started out in the business when I was only 16," admitted Green. "I had to get my parents' consent to do so. They didn't want to give it at first. But I convinced them that I only wanted to be a wrestler and they shouldn't deny me the opportunity.

"Naturally, they were concerned with my youth. But I told them that I had to start sometime, and after all, I was big for my age and could certainly take care of myself. They saw my point and signed the permission papers which relieved them of any legal action in the even that I ever got hurt."

A lot has happened in those five years. Green has become perhaps the brightest young prospect for Moolah's crown. Certainly there isn't anybody around at her age as good. Many will agree. She travels extensively, averaging three matches a week at times. But as much as she travels, she never forgets to call home every week no matter where she is.

Prior to facing Moolah this time, Green didn't accept any other matches. She wanted to totally concentrate mentally and physically on defeating Moolah, something nobody has done for all these many years. Fact is, she arrived in New York almost a week before the bout in a move to be fully prepared without the worry of travel and being tired.

"There's one thing you can't do, and that's to underestimate Moolah," revealed Green. "She's been a great champion down through the years. I learned one thing right away, she's a great deal tougher than I ever imagined. She is a veteran campaigner who knows all the tricks. I'm as ready as I'll ever be."

Moolah, herself, appeared ready. She was relaxes as can be in her dressing room at the opposite end of the arena. She was talking with an old friend, a former wrestler herself, and the two recalled and laughed about some of their experiences of the past.

Looking at her, Moolah was in excellent shape. She paired down to 147 pounds, which was five pounds lighter than she weighed the last time she put her title on the line. A vigorous training schedule in her native South Carolina made it happen to Moolah's liking.

"That extra five pounds was too much for me to carry around," explained Moolah. "I feel much quicker, and

stronger, too, with the less weight. I have much more stamina and I don't tire as easily.

"I would say that I am facing my biggest challenge in recent years for my title. Everybody says that Green has good looks and all that. But, she is also an excellent wrestler. She's young, quick and has a great amount of stamina. She could probably wrestle until the cows come home. She's from Texas and you know they wrestle tough down that way.

Anyway, I've faced her before so I know what she can do. I can't afford to get careless against her. She is quite adept at executing a dropkick and dangerous with her Bulldog. Most Texas wrestlers use that maneuver. So, I have to be careful out there."

Moolah looked every bit the champion she has been ever since 1956. Which is a long time. It only emphasizes how good she is. And she dressed the part, too. She was resplendent in a short, white Belgian lace robe which cost $50 a yard. She was quick to point with pride that she made it herself.It was trimmed with zircons and had a hood which she pulled over her head.

The striking robe matched her white trunks which was also laced with zircons at the top. Her boots were also white and on each one was a silver crown which was emblematic of her championship.

"Everything I've got I have gotten on my own," snapped Moolah as she fastened her robe with pride. "Nobody ever gave me anything even as a youngster. My parents were poor but they gave me a lot of love and understanding. That's why I fought so hard to become the world's champion and nobody is ever going to take that title away from me. The only way I'll give it up is when I retire . . . and that isn't going to be for a long time!"

Surprisingly, when she entered the ring, Moolah did receive some cheers. However, they were quickly drowned out by the boos of most of the standing room only crowd of 20,000 fans. They saved the big cheers for Susan Green. It was her crowd. When the ring announcer blared out Moolah's name, the catcalls reverberated throughout the jammed arena. Moolah just brushed the noise away by defiantly waiving her arms.

When the bell sounded, Moolah quickly responded. She caught Green by surprise with a two-fisted attack that sent her blong challenger sprawling. Somewhat dazed, Green shook the cobwebs from her head and retaliated with a fistic barrage of her own that had the crowd cheering.

Relentlessly pursuing Moolah, she unleashed a furious salvo of forearm smashes that had the champion in trouble on the ropes. The crowd was encouraging Green. She responded by flailing away at Moolah.

Despite being on her knees, Moolah gives Green a lesson in ringmanship. Positioning herself, Moolah caught Green coming off ropes and tossed her over.

Appearing confident before bout, Moolah struts around ring in lace robe she designed herself.

The wily Moolah took advantage of a break in the action. The referee had momentarily interceded to caution Green about the use of her closed fists. When he signaled for the action to continue, Moolah kicked the unsuspecting Green and sent her tumbling to the mat holding her side.

The champion got on her feet and dove through the air in an effort to land on Green. But, Green quickly moved away and Moolah landed stunned on the mat. Green added to her discomfort by clamping a leg scissors on Moolah that brought cries of anguish from the champion.

Cleverly, Moolah removed a foreign object from her tights. She shielded it from the referee and struck Green in the side which forced her to break the hold. However, once she got on her feet, Susan executed a perfect dropkick that sent Moolah woozily to the mat near the corner.

Sensing a kill, Green began to climb the ropes to the top of the turnbuckle. The crowd rose to its feet wildly cheering. They realized that Moolah was in position to lose her title and they wanted it to happen.

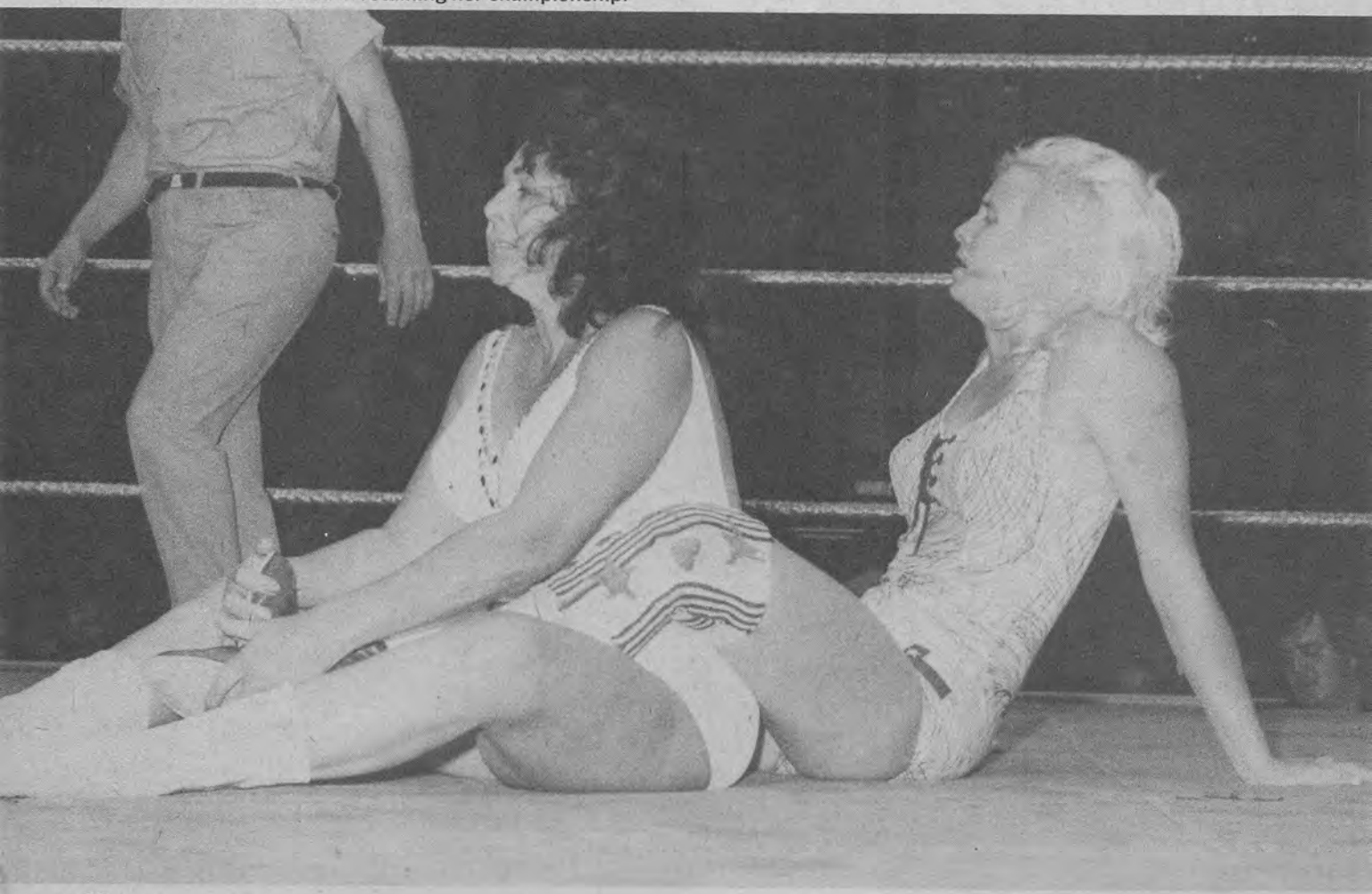
Green reached the top of the turnbuckle and dove at the proned Moolah. She was going for the big pin that would make her the new champion. At least that's what she and everybody else thought.

But, Moolah was playing possum. As Green was about to land, she rolled over and Susan hit the canvas with a thud. She rolled over and lay motionless. Moolah then covered her with a pin to retain her title for the thousandth time much to the large crowd's chagrin. Moolah was still the champion!

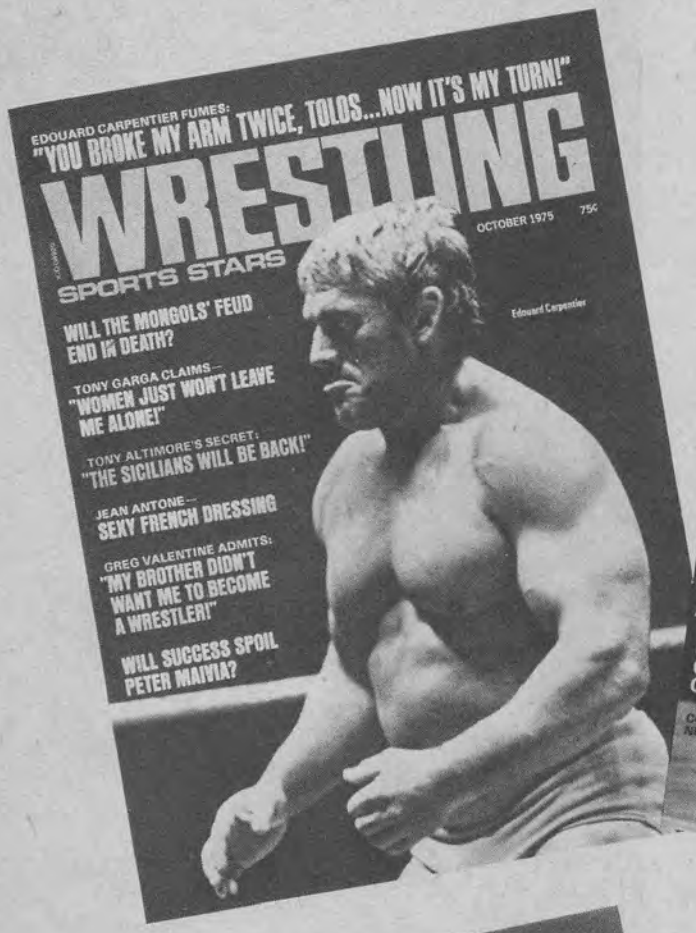
"How about that for an ending," exclaimed Moolah once she reached the dressing room. "I haven't been the champion for 19 years for nothing. I know where it's at. She thought she had me set up for the big splash. But, in reality, I set her up in return. I timed it perfectly."

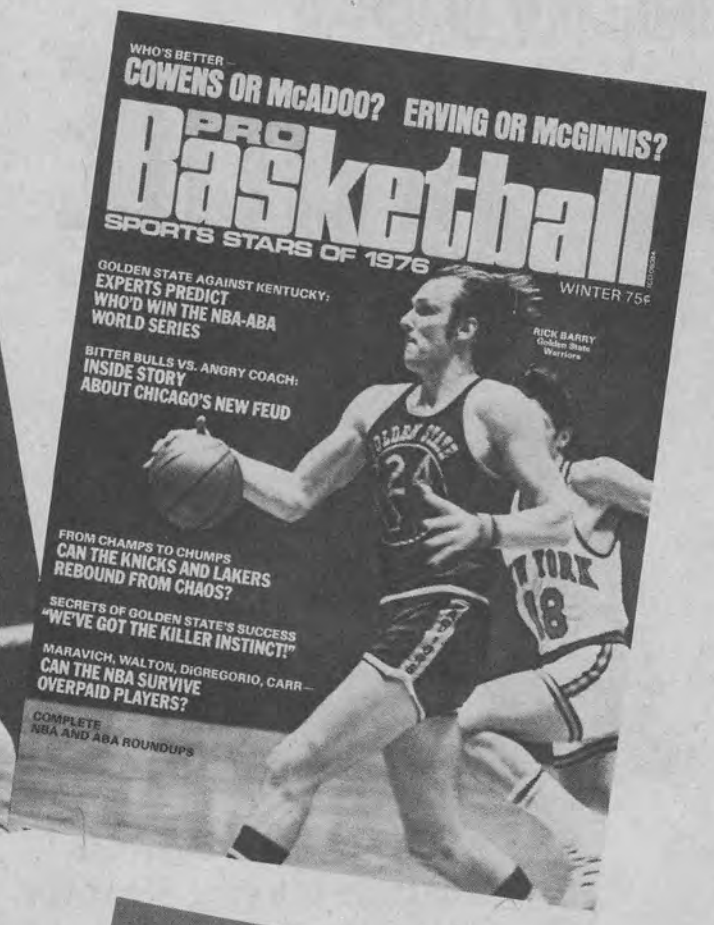
It appears as if Moolah will be the world's champion for time memorium . . . ▲

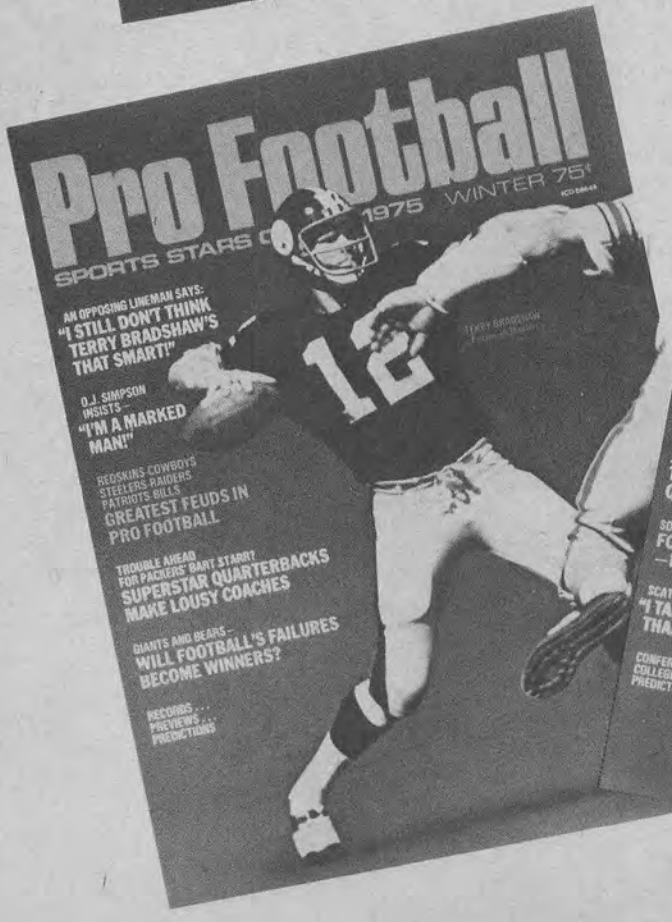
Near the end of the match, both girls appeared tired. They maintained a fast pace for nearly 30 minutes before Moolah succeeded in retaining her championship.

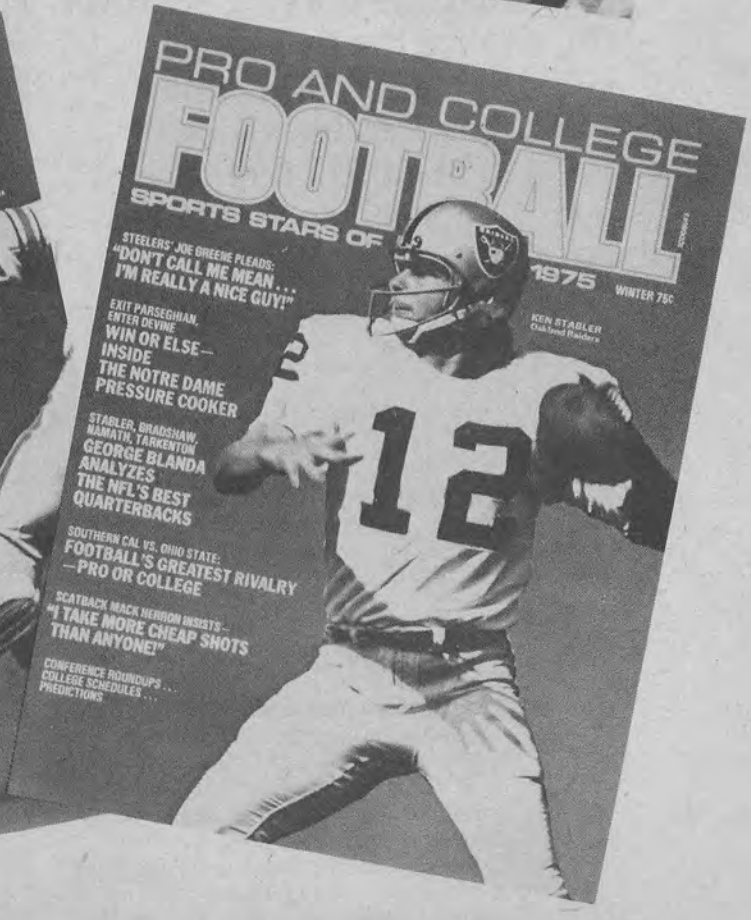


EVERYBODY'S READING..









DARLING DAGMAR:

A LITTLE BIT OF THE SOUTH

She may be a charmer outside the ring. However, once the bell sounds, the 4'-2", 95-pound barefoot blonde is a bundle of fury. So much so that she is rated among the top five midget wrestlers.

SHE IS PERT and pretty with silver blonde hair and a cute southern accent. No wonder she is called "Darling." Darling Dagmar if you please. All this wrapped up in four feet 2 inches and 95 pounds of wrestling dynamite. Her southern charm easily wraps you around her tiny finger.

Yes, Darling Dagmar is a woman midget wrestler from North Carolina. She has been a professional wrestler for twelve years now and considered in the top five of all women midget wrestlers, which number twenty five or thirty.

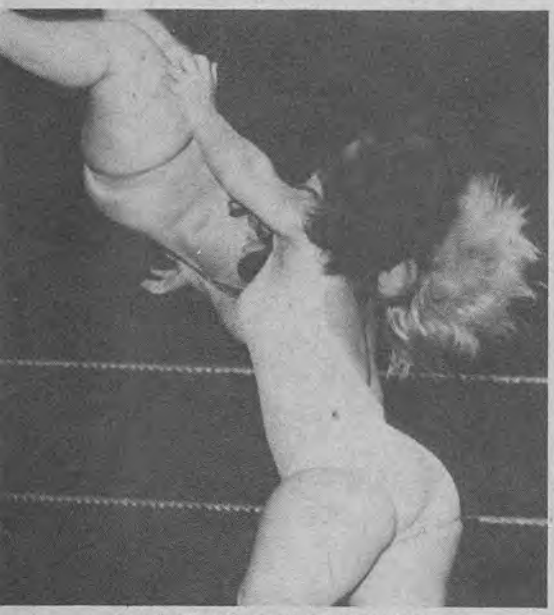
When Darling Dagmar was very young in North Carolina, she loved professional wrestling. She witnessed it from television which came from Chicago but shown down south. Her all time favorite was Buddy 'Nature Boy'

Size can be misleading. Midget wrestling is fast paced and furious. Darling Dagmar shows that she's no lady by getting ready with a forearm smash.

Hair pulling is all part of the action. Dagmar is on the receiving end of Diamond Lil's antics. Sometimes blondes don't have more fun.

If this looks confusing . . . it is. Diamond Lil is on the bottom of a pile up that has Dagmar on top and ref in middle.

Ref Sky Low Low, a wrestler in his own right, learns of the hazards of refereeing from Diamond Lil.



In a fantastic aerial maneuver, Dagmar goes high in executing a drop kick that puts a halt to Diamond Lil.

Rogers. Also Fabulous Moolah, Killer Kowalski, Elephant Boy and Verne Gagne. It was Elephant Boy who had a female servant girl known as Slave Girl, who when she turned pro wrestler herself, took the name Slave Girl Moolah, then Fabulous Moolah.

Born Katherine Carlton, she changed her name to Darling Dagmar when she turned to the pro ranks in 1962. Her very first pro match took in Birmingham, Alabama against Baby Shirl. Says Dagmar grinning, "Heck I lost but I gave her a tough match."

It was California where Dagmar learned to wrestle at a wrestling training school. At first she picked up pointers on her own and was taught by amateurs.

Darling Dagmar prefers to wrestle without wrestling shoes but for the early part of her career she did wear them. As Dagmar puts it, "I was really only a beginner and I was afraid of breaking an ankle. I love wrestling barefoot and it is natural for me because I did come from the south where being barefoot was part of growing up. I find being without wrestling shoes gives me more maneuverability for flying tactics. I still put on the wrestling shoes if an ankle is giving me a problem."

Darling Dagmar has wrestled in just about every part of the country, which now includes New York. Very soon women midget wrestlers will be allowed to campaign in Oregon. Dagmar has wrestled in Japan, Australia where she has met other midget women wrestlers from those countries, which adds to the count of some thirty women midgets that wrestle here in the states.

As of the moment there is no midget women champion or tag team champions but a tournament is being talked about to decide a singles champion. It will consist of the top ten rated women midgets in wrestling from all over, which will include Dagmar. Says Dagmar, "I'm looking forward to this tournament and I hope to eventually come out the champion. I have the experience and the ability to do it."

Not only has Darling Dagmar wrestled other women midgets but has been involved in mixed matches of all kinds. "I've been with big women wrestlers as a tag partner and naturally we wrestled a team consisting of another midget women wrestler and big women wrestler," said Dagmar. "I have also teamed with a big male wrestler against another team of the same. Believe me they are rough matches. You know normally a midget goes against another

In a tangled mess in center of the ring, Dagmar, whose arms are locked around Diamond Lil's legs, manages to apply reverse pin for the victory.

midget in these matches but in the heat of battle you do get caught by the wrong party. You have to be on your toes at all times. I really like these matches. They are exciting and the fans love them. I would like to see them signed everywhere."

Darling Dagmar has also been the third party in the ring. Yes, she has officiated as a referee in midget matches. States Dagmar, "I love being a referee. It's most exciting and you learn plenty. I don't take any sass from anyone. I lay down the rules and I expect them to be obeyed. I make it a point to tell the opponents that I won't allow them to touch me. If they do, then I will let them have it the hard way. I have done this already. The referee is the boss. Being a referee has taught me to respect a referee and I try to follow the rules as best I can. I like to follow the rules myself but if my opponent wants it rough, well I'll wrestle their way. Being a pro for twelve years I know all the rough tricks."

Injuries are not uncommon in professional wrestling and Darling Dagmar has had her share. The cuts, bruises and broken bones have come her way. Three years ago Dagmar received her most serious injury in Shreveport, Louisiana. Her opponent Doll Paige put eighteen stitches into Dagmar's head, which kept her out of action for three weeks.

Of course Darling Dagmar is a wrestling star in her own right and she also is a great wrestling fan. She loves great wrestling ability and she has her favorites. Buddy Rogers is her all time favorite. Following him there is Bruno Sammartino, The Sheik, Killer Karl Kox, Killer Kowalski, Edouard Carpentier, Verne Gagne, Fabulous Moola, Vickie Williams, Betty Nicoli, Jean Antone and Vivian Vaschon.

Among the midget wrestlers Dagmar picks five. Little Beaver, Sky Low Low, Wee Willie Wilson, Lord Littlebrook and Little Bobo. Says Dagmar, "I look for great wrestling ability. I may not agree with tactics of some but they have to have this ability to stay on top for these many years. If anyone thinks that some villains don't have great wrestling knowledge because they use foul tactics or weapons well they better think again."

Darling Dagmar was scheduled to make her first appearance in the New York area at Westchester County Center in White Plains. She was really thrilled over this. She says, "New York is an exciting place and now I'll be the very first women midget wrestler along with my opponent Diamond Lil, to wrestle in New York. Two years ago the law was passed to allow women wrestlers and now we women midgets are here for our appearance. I can't wait to wrestle in Madison Square Garden. We women midget wrestlers have been favorites of wrestling fans all over. I know the fans in the New York area will love us."

Darling Dagmar did wrestle Diamond Lil and did come out the winner. The frosting to the cake was added as Sky Low Low was guest referee. During the match both Dagmar and Lil managed to sandwich Sky into the action, which brought the house down. The fans truly enjoyed this midget mat action.

After the match Darling Dagmar was overjoyed. "I'm glad I won the very first women midget match in New York," she exclaimed. "I know the fans liked it. I hope they will be seeing more of us."

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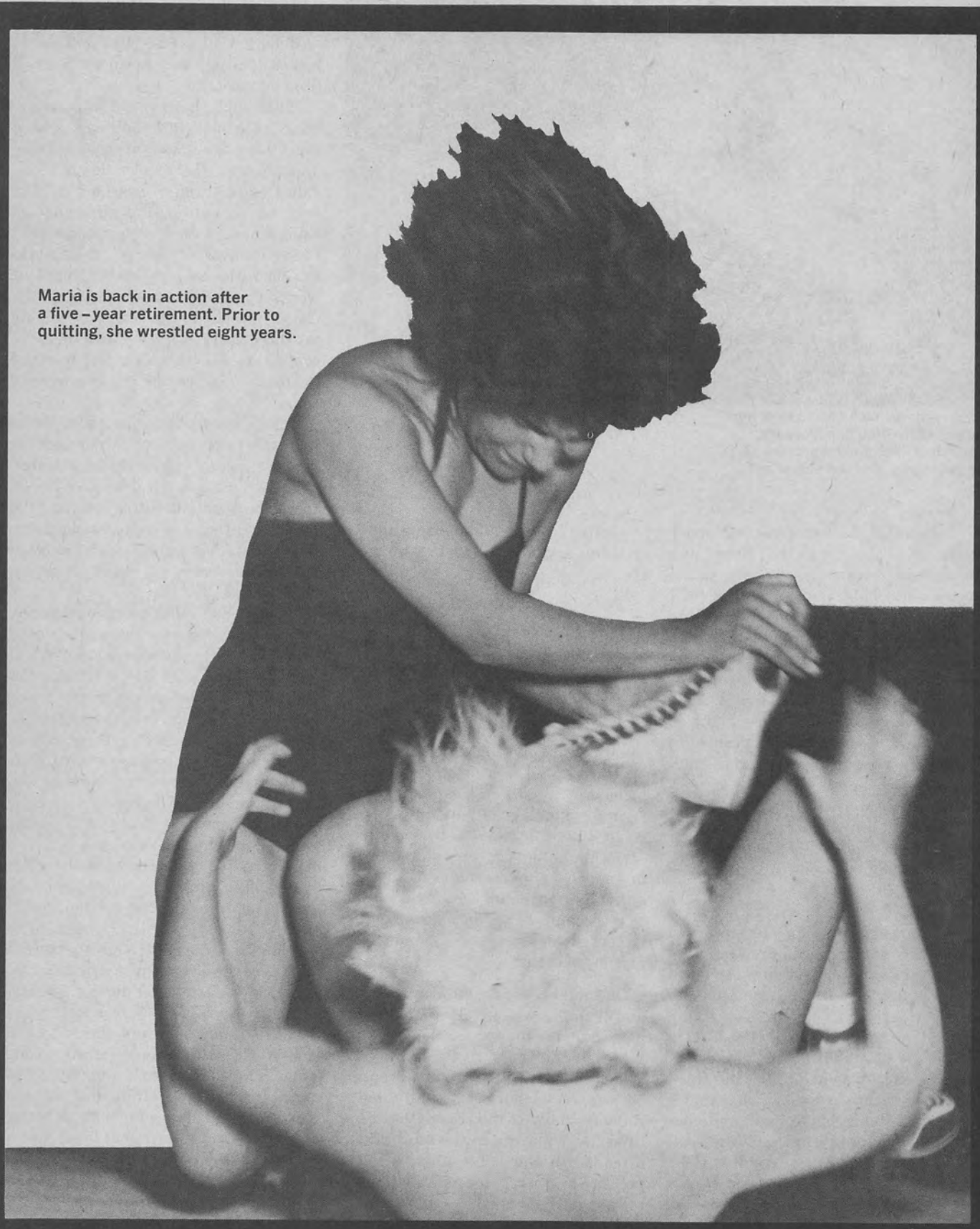
Story and photos by George Napolitano

Maria DeLeon Warns: "I'M BACK TO TEACH MOOLAH A LESSON!"

Wrestling again after a short retirement, the Mexican bombshell has issued a challenge to champion Fabulous Moolah . . . She's after Moolah's title.

LOOKING AT Maria DeLeon one would never suspect that her occupation is that of a woman wrestler; but as many of us have learned looks can be deceiving. For when Maria steps into that ring and begins to send her opponent sprawling across the mat with her wide assortment of scientific maneuvers and aerial acrobatics, one has to believe that she is one of the best in her profession.

Maria DeLeon has been wrestling professionally for a little over three years and she is right now actually embarking upon "Phase 2" of her wrestling career. As she explains:



Maria is back in action after a five–year retirement. Prior to quitting, she wrestled eight years.

Maria snaps back the head of her opponent with a hard forearm smash. Although she prefers aerial movements, she can slug it out.

"I actually started wrestling about eight years ago and at that time I was doing very well but I quit to get married and have a baby and for five years I stayed away from the ring. All during that time though I wanted to get back into the sport but I really never made an effort to push myself to once again pursue my career. Not too long ago, however, through the help of Jose Lothario and his wonderful family, I decided to begin wrestling once again and I can't be more happier with my decision."

In the ring Maria DeLeon likes to rely upon her lightning fast speed and her knowledge of aerial and acrobatic maneuvers to help her come up with a victory.

"The aerial type holds are my favorite," Maria stated. "They have worked very effectively for me and they are the most exciting type of maneuver to watch. I just love to hear the oohs and aahs of the fans when I start flying around the ring. This really helps me to give more of myself in the ring and it always leads to a victory. Besides this I also like to use a lot of holds that I learned in Mexico but as for their names I really don't know what you would call them in English. They are all various types of submission holds and once I apply them it's hard to have someone reverse them on me."

Owing to her high flying acrobatic style of wrestling, Maria likes to be the aggressor in the ring. Once she steps through the ropes, this Mexican bombshell is ready for anything and everything and she never lets up for a second.

"The way I wrestle is the same way I lead my outside life," Maria remarked. "I'm a very active person always playing tennis or running here or there and I'm just as active in the ring. I have a lot of energy to burn up, and once I begin to wrestle I just go all out. I guess you could classify my ring style as scientific but this style has a lot to do with the mood I'm in. When everything goes right for me I'll go out and have a good clean, scientific match but sometimes something might go wrong from either my opponent or maybe even the fans and this might change my style around. You've heard of the hot-blooded quick tempered Mexicans, well I guess I'm just one of them."

One might wonder how much work and training was involved on Maria's part in trying to re-enter the wrestling profession after a five year lay-off. When asked about this Maria replied, "It was really hard! I actually had to re-learn many of the things that I had been taught before in the school that I attended in North Carolina. I had to practice and practice again all the tumbles, flips, falls and take downs that I had once known; but this time through the help of the great Jose Lothario I learned how to do all these things the right way.

"When I first started I went to a school but in it there were quite a few girls and no one really received any type of personal attention and guidance. Before I knew it I was thrown into the ring and told I was a wrestler. I didn't feel confident at all at first but eventually I picked up things on my own and learned from my mistakes.

"This time, however, I was determined to go back into the ring knowing everything that I was supposed to know and through the expert advice, guidance, and tutoring of Jose Lothario I've learned so many different types of things that I never knew existed before. I have to say that I learned more working out with Jose and Dos Caras in four weeks time than I learned in all the time I attended school and all during my three years as a pro. Now I feel very confident and I know that I will be at the top of my profession within a matter of time."

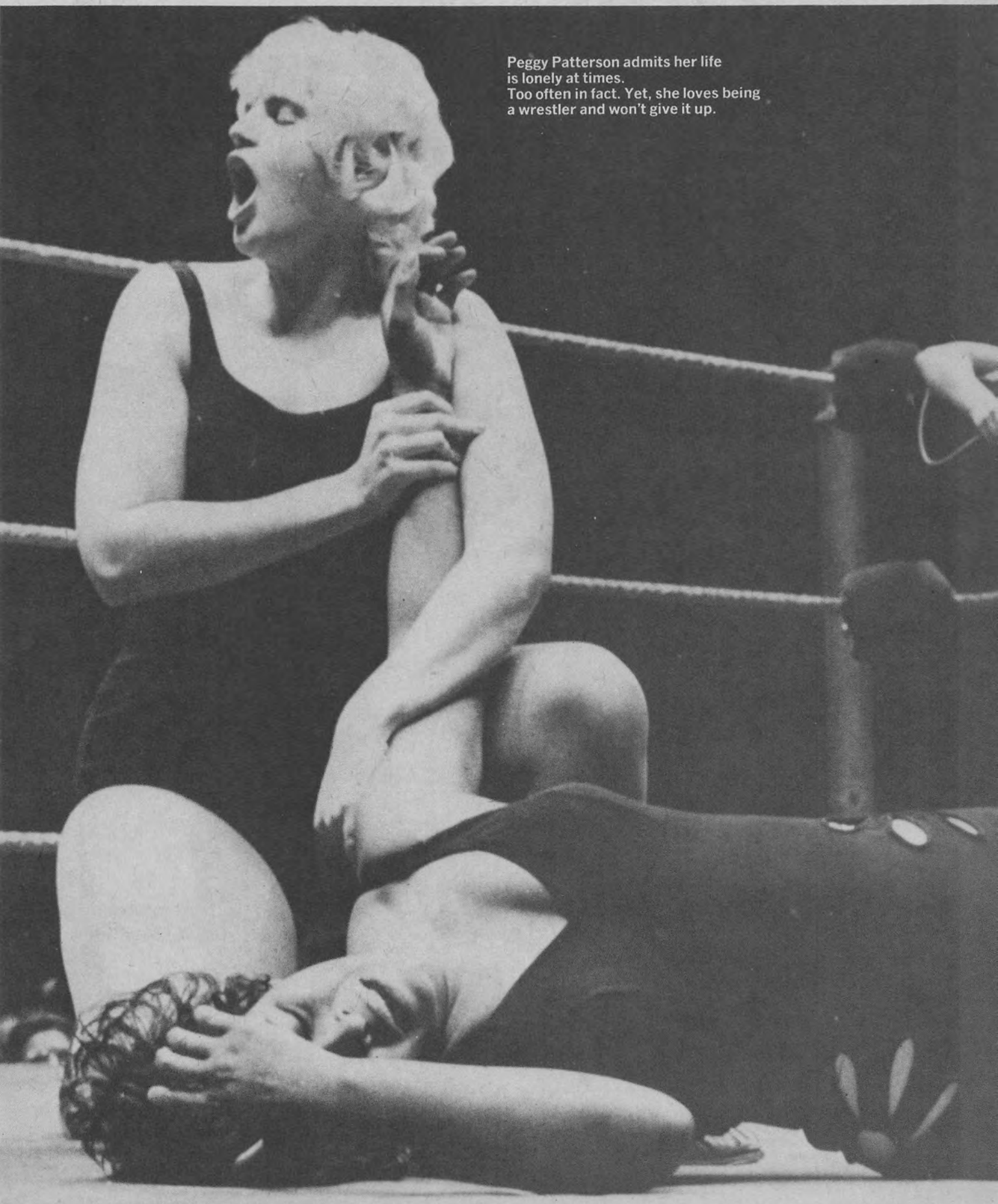
During her first stint as a pro, Maria had some fierce battles with some of the bigger names of the wrestling profession such as Judy Grable, Kay Noble, Penny Banner, and Rita Crotez and the Mexican fared very well against them. Now she is hoping to match her skill against the women's world champion the Fabulous Moolah.

"I battled Moolah twice during my first career so to say and neither of us came up with a decisive win in our matches," she said. "Once she was disqualified and the second match was a draw but now that I'm back in condition I'm looking forward to getting back in the ring with her because I think she's been champion too long. I would just love to top off my career by capturing the title from her. That would be like putting the icing on the cake.

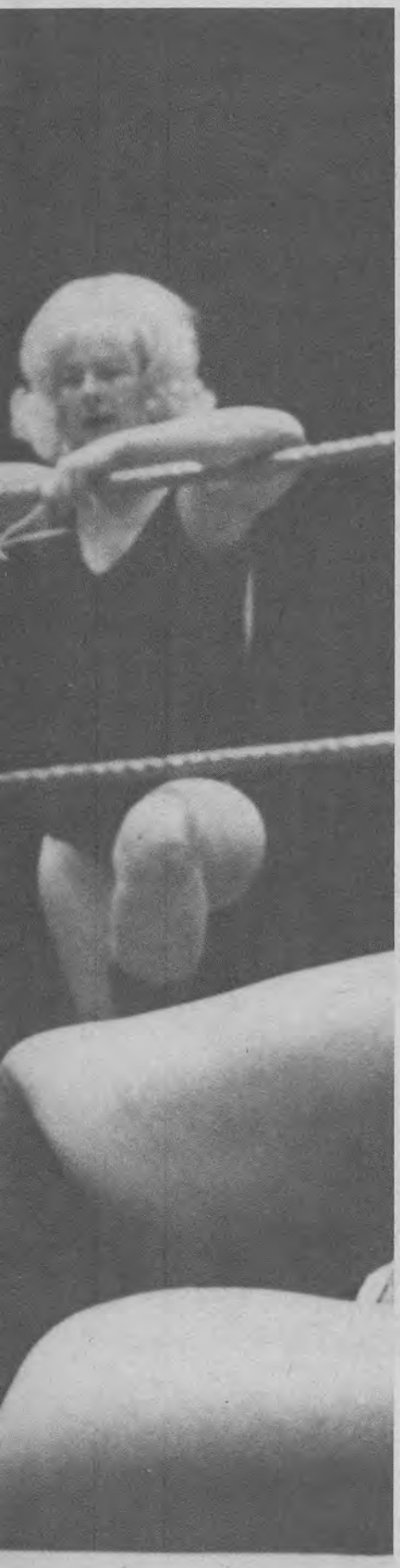
"About five years ago when they first started the girls in California I was lucky enouth, talented enough, fortunate enough, or whatever you want to call it to win the championship there. I also held the Texas State title and also the title in Oklahoma during my first stint as a wrestler. Now I feel that I have the know how and ability to win the World's title. Don't get me wrong though Moolah is tough, very tough but since I did fairly well against her the first time and I know I'm a much better wrestler this time around, I feel that if I'm given the chance I might be the one to finally topple her off her throne. That would really be a dream come true!"

Maria DeLeon has the desire, determination, and ambition to make it to the top and who knows maybe someday she just may be sitting on the Queen's throne. ▲

Making use of the ropes, Maria ties up her blond victim, refusing to follow the orders of the referee, who wants her to release hold.



Peggy Patterson admits her life
is lonely at times.
Too often in fact. Yet, she loves being
a wrestler and won't give it up.



Female Confession

"LONELINESS IS MY TOUGHEST ENEMY!" ADMITS PEGGY PATTERSON

"I've been in love for three years and lonely just as long," says the frustrated blonde. "I'm lucky if I get to see my man twice a year. That's not much, is it?" Despite it all, Peggy keeps on wrestling.

By Lou Sahadi

SHE REALLY DIDN'T look like a wrestler. Not quite. She was big enough, all right, about six feet tall. In fact, she was quite statuesque. She had blond hair and green eyes which gave her a soft look, especially when she smiled. She spoke softly with a twang that was strictly country. There was a certain happiness in her voice and Peggy Patterson looked natural when she smiled, which was quite often.

At first, she was a bit pensive. It was understandable. This was her first appearance in New York's palatial Madison Square Garden and the significance of the moment affected her. Women wrestlers do not appear regularly on the Garden programs. The ones that do have to be top caliber. If they are good, they are asked to return. If not, then it's back on the remote roads to the samll arenas in little heard of towns.

There is a certain glamour in being a female wrestler. The travel, the money, the name on the marquee. But, there is a definite loneliness, too. Peggy Patterson has experienced it. Most times the glamour of it all doesn't compensate for the loneliness. At least, not in Peggy's case. She's too much in love.

"I've been in love for three years and lonely just as long," confessed Peggy. "I love this business and I wouldn't be anything but a wrestler, but I love my

Peggy, gaining advantage here, ironically met her boyfriend while wrestling in Japan. "He's just great," exclaimed Peggy. "He loves me for who I am, a person. He is 100% for the fact I am a wrestler."

man just as much. The only problem is that being a wrestler has kept me away from my fiance. I mean I'm lucky if I get to see him twice a year. That's the truth. That's not much, is it?

"He's in Sacramento and I have been wrestling in every city but. The past two years I've been in the East, South and Southwest. I've been very busy every night, wrestling or traveling. It hasn't been easy. Not at all. Although I love wrestling, I really miss my fiance. It's not a comfortable situation. I mean I wish I could have the best of two worlds. Right now, that's not possible. But I have to keep going and keep hoping."

Ironically, it was through wrestling that Peggy met her boyfriend. She was on a tour of Japan three years ago when it happened. Her boyfriend was an Air Force sergeant at the time she met him. It was the proverbial love at first sight experience. She knew right then that he was the one.

"He's just great," exclaimed Patterson. "He loves me for who I am—a person. He is 100% for the fact that I am a wrestler. As long as I'm happy, he's happy. He knows how much wrestling means to me. He never objects or wants me to give it up. That's how much understanding he has. That's why I love him so. He's just so wonderful.

"But the loneliness is there for me. I know it's there for him, too. But at least he gets the chance to go home every night. I am somewhere else every night. The only way I help overcome the loneliness is writing him a letter three or four times a week. We also manage to call each other a couple of times, too. Just hearing his voice means so much."

Although Patterson got her first start in California, she hasn't appeared in a ring there the past three years, even though she is a native of the state. She was born in Fresno 23 years ago and her parents still have a home there. A big girl, Peggy was quite active in sports when she was in high school. She participated in a number of sports, track, swimming, volley ball, tennis and basketball. But the one sport that she really wanted to compete in, wrestling, wasn't on the program.

"I had always loved wrestling as a child," admitted Peggy. "I kept asking my high school coaches why they didn't have girl wrestling on the program. They couldn't understand why I had so much interest in wrestling. I told them that I wanted to become a wrestler when I graduated. They didn't take me too seriously until I showed them my scrapbook which contained hundreds of pictures.

"My father was a big wrestling fan and he took me to the matches with him. I developed an interest in the sport by watching television every week. I had a mad crush on Pat Patterson and loved the thrills and excitement that wrestling presented. I couldn't wait to finish

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Patterson applies a spinning leg lock to her fallen, dazed opponent.

high school and become a wrestler. I knew that the opportunities weren't too good for breaking in but I was determined."

It was a good thing that Peggy had determination. She needed every bit of it at the beginning. The first promoter she contacted, Roy Shires in San Francisco, discouraged her. He told her that she was too heavy. Then she contacted Moto in Los Angeles. He told her the same thing. It looked hopeless.

But Peggy was far from discouraged. She began training on her own. When she trimmed down, she enrolled in Mildred Burke's and Mae Weston's wrestling school in Los Angeles. The two former mat stars worked with Patterson for over a year.

"Those two helped me a great deal at the beginning," disclosed Patterson. "Being former wrestlers, they taught me quite a bit. But the one wrestler I always admired was Moolah. She is the greatest. Like or hate her, she is the champion. If I can become as good as her that's saying a lot. Only time will tell."

Patterson made her professional debut against Jean Harris in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a successful one which went a long way toward helping her establish confidence.

"Before the match I was scared," admitted Patterson. "After all, the only wrestling I did was while I was training. There's a world of difference in working out and wrestling for keeps. I didn't know what to expect, of how good I really was. Winning the first time out was very important."

Patterson spent the first two years of her new career on the west coast and in western Canada. She also made a trip to Japan which was quite unusual for a young professional. Appearances in Japan are usually reserved for veteran wrestlers. However, Patterson showed so much promise and had such a successful beginning that she was included on the trip.

The experience was well worth it. Not only did she meet her fiance, then, but she also accumulated valuable exposure in a foreign ring.

"The Japanese wrestlers are very tough, tougher than the American ones," revealed Patterson. "They are schooled in judo and karate and I learned a lot from them. It's an experience I'll never forget."

Patterson is a paradox. On some nights, she has the crowd cheering her on as a heroine. On other nights, she displays such a villainous nature that she incurs the fans' wrath. It doesn't bother her in the least. As long as the money is good, she could care less how the fans react.

"I'm big enough to do what I want to

in the ring," explains Peggy. "Actually, the villains of the ring fascinate me. In fact, I try to pattern myself after Pat Patterson. I have always enjoyed watching him perform."

While she has admired Moolah and watched Patterson, Peggy has her own style, one that has contributed to her success up until now. Her size and her strength have made it look easy. One of her favorite holds is the Boston Crab. When Peggy applies it, it is a submission hold. She knocks her opponent to the mat, turns her over, sits on her back and leans backward pulling her helpless foe's legs backward as far as she can go. The pain is enough to cause her opponent to yield.

Another of Peggy's preferred maneuvers is the Elbow Smash. With her height and power, it's an effective weapon. In executing it, Peggy throws her opponent into the ropes and thrusts her elbow into her opponent's throat as she bounces off the ropes. The move often dazes her foe and provides Peggy with a big advantage.

Patterson's success hasn't been without pain. She has had her share of bumps and bruises along the way. She suffered broken ribs while training to become a wrestler. Three years ago she had her nose broken in a match against Jan Sheridan in Springfield, Mass. Before that she suffered a cut above her left eye in a battle with Marilyn Bender in Los Angeles. Bender kicked Patterson in the eye opening a gash that required five stitches to close.

The one thing that has kept her going and coming back for more is money. Patterson figures that in a good year she can earn as much as $30,000. If she won the world's championship, it could mean even more.

"Moolah is my aim," exclaimed Patterson. "Her belt and the big dollars that go with it are my aim. There's no doubt about it, she's the best. She just keeps on going all these years. But, I think she could be beat this year. Timing is everything and I'm just waiting for the right time.

"In her own way, she's a liberated female. She is a free spirit. To some degree, I am liberated, too. If a woman does a man's work, she should be paid an equal salary. Women can go to work if they want to, but they should be home in time to cook their husband's dinner.

"Me, I like to be treated like a woman. I'm in love with a wonderful man and he knows how to treat me. I'm going to wrestle another five years, get married, settle down and raise a family. I can take the lonely nights until then. The understanding I get from my fiance makes it that much easier."

Such is love. It makes the world go round and Peggy Patterson a winner. Moolah had better look out. ▲

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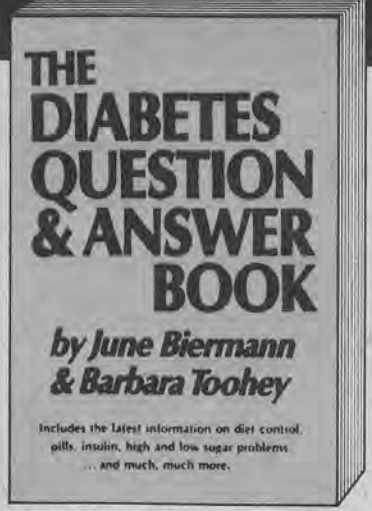

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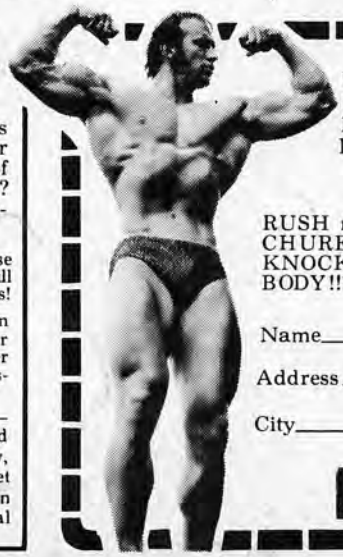

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